■ ZOOLOGY

The day a dolphin brought a bunch of flowers

Carl-Heinrich Hagenbeck, grandson of the founder of Hamburg Zoo, was not handed greatness on a platter. He worked his way up from the ranks in the family firm; his first job at the zoo was that of a humble keeper.

When he died recently by his own hand at the age of sixty-six, he did so as the unchallenged grand old man of zoological gardens in this country and the man who, to quote Professor Bernhard Grzimek of Frankfurt Zoo, earned German zoos a worldwide reputation.

He seems to have emulated Ernest Hemingway, a writer he greatly admired, in shooting himself with a hunting-rifle on his estate in the Lüneburg Heath on 2 June.

Carl-Heinrich Hagenbeck was a tall man and an engaging personality but had suffered from fits of depression in recent years, especially after a heart attack in 1971.

He is said never to have been able to erase from his memory the July night in 1943 when four fifths of the zoo's acreage was gutted in an air raid Eight keepers were killed, not to mention most of the animals.

After the war Hagenbeck started again from scratch and the new zoo was soon even more attractive than its predecessor; the animal enclosures were certainly more up-to-date in design.

The animals must have room in which to move around, Hagenbeck always maintained. At Hagenbeck's even lions and tigers are not immured in cages; they roam round spacious enclosures designed to resemble as closely as possible their natural habitat.

Not for them the fate of the panther immortalised in the poem by Rainer Maria Rilke which pads incessantly to and fro in its cage, its eyes rendered unseeing by an endless succession of bars.

Hagenbeck's original open-plan zoo is no longer unique to Hamburg either. Zoos designed along similar lines have been built all over the world — in New Delhi, for instance.

Hagenbeck's Zoo is probably the best-known in Europe; it is certainly one of the oldest, dating back to 1848 when, the story goes, fishermen sold to Gottfried Claas Carl Hagenbeck, a St Pauli fish dealer, half a dozen seals they had caught off the North German coast.

Hagenbeck exhibited them in St Pauli as a sideline. The seals proved extremely popular with the paying public, and Carl Hagenbeck, the fish dealer's son, took an increasing interest in animals, travelling as far away as Africa and South America in his quest for them.

It was Carl Hagenbeck who set up the zoo in 1874, followed in 1887 by a circus. In 1907 the zoo moved from St Pauli to a more spacious location where it has remained ever since.

Carl Hagenbeck was the man who invented enclosures in the context of zoological gardens as we know them today. He noticed that lions and tigers tend to lose heart and die if they are unable to get sufficient exercise, so he designed unbarred enclosures, taking good care to ensure that the perimeters were too wide for the animals to scale by even the longest of jumps.

By this time big game expeditions were scouring all four corners of the globe for specimens of exotic species ranging from the onager to the porcupine. Hagenbeck even ran a show of exotic races, such as Eskimos and Red Indians.

Carl-Heinrich Hagenbeck, grandson of Carl, joined the family firm in 1930 and in 1945, following the death of his father Heinrich Hagenbeck, took over as co-director alongside two other members of the family.

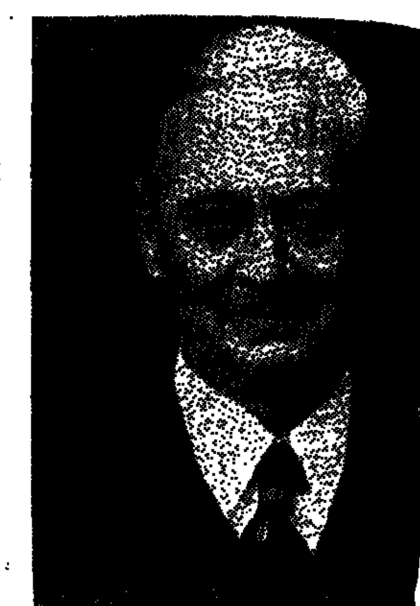
Hagenbeck's was the first zoo at which Siberian tigers gave birth to cubs in captivity. Every morning Carl-Heinrich Hagenbeck toured the zoo, even living in a house in the grounds during the winter season.

"There was nothing that escaped his attention," a long-serving member of staff claims. "He worried about a baboon that had a cold just as he would enquire after an elephant that had trodden on a thorn."

His sixty-fifth birthday was spent at the zoo, where a dolphin presented him with a bouquet of flowers and a penguin soiled his suit in the excitement. Even the elephants brandished bunches of carnations.

But Carl-Heinrich Hagenbeck was already suffering form increasingly serious bouts of depression. After a heart attack his doctor had ordered him to cut down his work schedule. *Thomas Wolgast*

(Münchner Merkur, 4 June 1977)



Carl-Heinrich Hagenbeck
(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

The bare facts...

Sylt, the holiday isle off the North Sea coast of the Federal Republic of Germany, is increasingly popular with nudists.

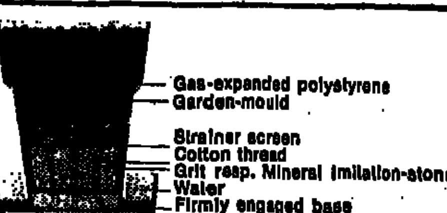
It was still early in the season and a bracing breeze was blowing in Westerland, one of the island's chief resorts, but nudists were out in force on their section of the dunes.

Nearly six out of ten holidaymakers now sunbathe in the nude. Their number has more than doubled over the past decade.

Hans Petersen, general manager of tourism at Westerland, reckons it will not be long before nudists account for more than six visitors out of ten.

Erwin Kruse

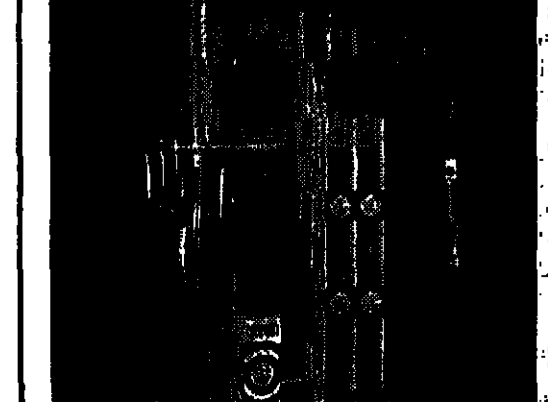
(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 7 June 1977)











The German Tribune
A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS
Hamburg, 3 July 1977
Sixteenth Year - No. 794 - By air
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Bonn sets its sights on uranium from Australia

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Bonn has for some time paid increasing attention to political developments in the South Pacific. Its motives have, for the most part, been, broadly speaking, political.

This country feels it has a part to play in ensuring stability in Australasia and the South Pacific, and now the Soviet Union is trying to gain a foothold in that part of the world, Bonn is particularly keen to reactivate ties with the Antipodes.

The visit to Bonn by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser has served to emphasise, however, that this country is also motivated by more down-to-earth objectives.

Australia has come to regard itself as a Pacific State and is increasingly shouldering its share of responsibility for the region as a whole, but unlike its Pacific neighbours it is rich in raw materials, especially uranium.

This country is stepping up its nuclear power programme and remains entirely dependent on imported nuclear fuels, so uranium supplies are a topic of fundamental importance as far as Bonn is concerned.

It was hardly surprising that the talks Mr Fraser held with Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher soon dismissed general topics and concentrated on Australian uranium supplies.

The power industry in this country is keenly interested in reducing dependence on uranium imports from the United States and Canada by concluding supply agreements with Australia too.

Unlike his predecessor Gough Whitlam, Mr Fraser conveyed the impression of being a skilled negotiator, but when it comes to the small print there is little to choose between the Liberal leader and his Labour predecessor; both are tough customers.

Since Bonn was so keen to come to terms on a supply contract, Mr Fraser took the opportunity of stating terms of his own. Without saying so in as many words he indicated that the wanted readier access to EEC markets in return.

From an Australian viewpoint his arguments held conviction. Stable world trade, he noted, is considered generally desirable, and it presupposes free access to markets, including the European Common Market.

Mr Fraser was prepared to admit that the difficulties that beset the EEC's agricultural market are genuine and substantial and that they can only be resolved by means of detailed consultation.

Western Europe could not, however, expect Australia to show willing where the energy problems of Common Market countries are concerned when the EEC chooses to ignore Australia's worries about the restrictive policies pursued by the European Community in respect of farm produce and, indeed, of imports of Australian steel.

The two sides agreed on a visit to Bonn later this summer by an Australian delegation with a view to reaching agreement on bilateral economic ties.

The tenor of Mr Fraser's talks in Bonn was cordial on the whole, and both sides are confident that agreement will be reached on more intensive economic cooperation despite differences of viewpoint.

Once Bonn and Canberra have come to terms, Australia will submit its case to Brussels again, confident that with Bonn's wholehearted support readier access to EEC markets will prove feasible.

There remains the problem presented by the security aspect of uranium supplies. Mr Fraser fully appreciates the views of President Carter on this point and will be discussing effective international safeguards with the US President.

Mr Fraser assured Bonn, however, that Australia will, as a matter of principle, be assuming sole responsibility for the way in which it conducts uranium exports.

It would be unfair to accuse Bonn of having pursued opportunist objectives in its talks with Australia, seeking its own advantage in contravention of the interests of the Common Market as a whole.

This country has already interceded in Brussels on behalf of another Pacific country, New Zealand, with the result that New Zealand was indeed able to negotiate readier access to EEC markets for its farm produce.

New Zealand, let it be added, is not a country that owns commodity resources as invaluable to industry in this country as Australia's uranium ore.

In New Zealand's case Bonn was motivated primarily by considerations of free trade, which is an essential prerequisite if this country is to maintain its track record in export markets.

Harry Hamm

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 24 June 1977)



The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn on 20 June (Photo: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

Bonn's nuclear embargo dampens dispute with Washington

DIE ZEIT

In announcing an embargo on further exports of nuclear reprocessing plant Chancellor Schmidt has succeeded in putting a damper on the most sizzling dispute of the decade between Bonn and Washington.

Since Helmut Schmidt's 17 June statement that Bonn has decided until further notice to withhold its consent from export deals involving equipment and know-how for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel, relations with the United States on this sensitive issue can best be said to resemble an armistice.

Herr Schmidt has certainly taken the wind out of President Carter's sails for the time being. Mr Carter objects primarily to the proliferation of installations of this kind, arguing that reprocessed plutonium could be used to manufacture nuclear warheads.

The embargo will not affect this country's nuclear deal with Brazil, but even so, Bonn's self-imposed abstinence must be seen mainly as a token of the Federal Republic of Germany's intention to be on its best behaviour in view of Mr Carter's ambitious plan to negotiate new international safeguards governing the uses of atoms for peace.

This, however, is only one aspect of the Bonn government's decision. Four others are of at least equal, if not greater importance:

— Helmut Schmidt made the announcement in the presence of President Giscard d'Estaing of France, who announced a similar decision on France's part last December.

M. Giscard d'Estaing was in Bonn for the latest in a longstanding series of regular consultations between France and the Federal Republic of Germany, but his presence at the press conference at which Herr Schmidt chose to announce the embargo would seem to indicate that the two countries are agreed on a joint approach to any future negotiations.

Thus Western Europe's two leading nuclear exporters appear not only to have adopted a common viewpoint, but also to have resolved to advocate it jointly in any future talks with President Carter, who takes a more rigorous view.

— Bonn nonetheless insists on the fulfilment of existing agreements to supply fuel for nuclear power stations. Earlier this year the United States imposed a ban on exports of enriched uranium — not, incidentally, for the first time.

Were America again to halt nuclear fuel exports in an attempt to oblige its European allies to accept Mr Carter's nuclear policies, Bonn's undertaking would no longer apply, the scene would be set for a fresh nuclear dispute between Bonn and Washington and the repercussions on transatlantic ties would be unforeseeable.

A glance in Japan's direction is sufficient to indicate the extent to which the United States is currently using its

Continued on page 3

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Split between SPD stalwarts Brandt and Wehner continues

"Never seen anything like it!" MPs and parliamentary correspondents in Bonn agreed for once to a man. They were referring to what, in the circumstances, was an unprecedented demonstration of solidarity by Willy Brandt and Herbert Wehner.

SPD chairman Brandt and Social Democratic parliamentary party leader Wehner are well known to be barely on speaking terms. Herbert Wehner was, after all, largely responsible for obliging Willy Brandt to resign as Bonn Chancellor in 1974.

Yet on 21 June, in the middle of the Bundestag debate on the Finance Bill, the two battle-scarred veterans of the Bonn political scene took to the rostrum to declare a truce in the feud between them that has recently flared up again.

Brandt and Wehner have been at daggers drawn since 1974, if not earlier, but managed to conceal the fact to all but their closest associates.

Social Democrats in the know recognised the symptoms. So did attentive observers who noted that Willy Brandt's face assumed an ice-cold, but otherwise inscrutable expression, whenever he referred to "Herr Wehner."

In recent years Herbert Wehner, a mercurial personality, has managed to refrain from pouring fire and brimstone on Willy Brandt. But a few weeks ago, when Social Democratic MPs were deeply divided over tax reforms, the Wehner volcano seemed on the brink of a renewed eruption.

In a TV interview Herr Wehner blamed the condition of the SPD as a whole for the failure of the parliamentary party to back Chancellor Schmidt to the hilt.

Then, during the third weekend in June, Herbert Wehner really let rip at an SPD conference in Saarbrücken. He lashed out at the Social Democratic leadership for not even disseminating among the SPD rank and file the achievements and arguments of the parliamentary party and the government.

He did not go so far as to mention Willy Brandt by name, but there could be no doubt who he meant. Besides, Herr Wehner was less circumspect in his off-the-record, behind-the-scenes comments.

On 20 June Willy Brandt felt stung into action. In reply to a query he commented that "my recent warning against unbridled public statements does not apply solely to party members holding positions of responsibility elsewhere than in Bonn."

The parliamentary party took note. A number of Bundestag MPs said in public what grass-roots party members were saying all over the country, that SPD leaders in Bonn were paying scant heed to their own appeals for party solidarity and discipline.

Within the parliamentary party and thereafter at a meeting of the SPD executive committee a contributory misunderstanding was clarified. Herbert Wehner had felt upset because Willy Brandt had voiced respect at Saarbrücken for the SPD's tax package rebels.

Herr Brandt explained that he held in far greater respect SPD MPs who had voted in favour of the tax proposals with a heavy heart rather than bring about the downfall of the coalition government and the Schmidt administration in Bonn.

Willy Brandt's associates claimed that at the meeting of the party executive committee the SPD chairman had given the parliamentary party leader a piece of his mind and that Herbert Wehner had climbed down a peg or two.

Other Social Democrats who claimed to be in the know reckoned Herr Wehner had only beaten a tactical retreat and was as adamant as ever in the accusations he had levelled at party organisation.

Then the unexpected happened. Willy Brandt suddenly raised the entire issue in a speech to the Bundestag and in reply to the jibes made by the Opposition. The Christian Democrats, he announced, would not succeed in ending the "objective agreement between the leadership of the SPD and the parliamentary party."

There could be no mistaking the detached candour of the chilly phrase "objective agreement", but Willy Brandt went even further to emphasise that although he and Herbert Wehner might have nothing more to say to each other, they remained agreed on one final point:

"There are no differences of opinion between Herbert Wehner and myself that might hamper the joint conviction or the resolve to act thereupon that there is no alternative to the current coalition of Social and Free Democrats."

Yet Willy Brandt is no longer even sure that he and Herbert Wehner still have this conviction in common. Why else should he have continued by promptly dismissing the idea of a Grand Coalition of Christian and Social Democrats as a "Loch Ness monster specially devised for this country"?

In December 1966 Herbert Wehner was largely responsible for engineering just such a coalition government, in which Willy Brandt served as Foreign Minister for three years.

As Willy Brandt addressed the Bundestag on 21 June most people present will have recalled that speculation was rife within the SPD whether Herbert Wehner might not be quietly sounding out the possibility of another coalition with the Christian Democrats.

Herbert Wehner listened with bowed head to what Willy Brandt had to say. What, those present wondered, were his feelings? Did he perhaps feel defiant, contrite, insulted?

A few hours later Herbert Wehner himself mounted the rostrum. His feelings were in all probability mixed. At all events he began by lashing out at Opposition leader Helmut Kohl.

He compared the CDU leader with a whirling dervish, called him a make-believe Chancellor who made play with arrogant idiocy and who talked a load of nonsense. But at long last, towards the end of his speech, he referred to himself, Willy Brandt and the SPD.

There he stood, the grand old man of the SPD, averring that he had no intention of either unseating Helmut Schmidt as Chancellor or of replacing Willy Brandt as party chairman.

"What I want is an SPD led by Willy Brandt and wholeheartedly supporting SPD Chancellor Helmut Schmidt." Herr Wehner recalled that after Willy Brandt's resignation as Chancellor he, Herbert Wehner, had been instrumental in ensuring "not only that Willy Brandt remained party chairman but that he did so in more than mere name."

Herbert Wehner would not have been true to himself had he not gone on to add a few reservations to this profession of loyalty. He had been aware of the difficulties at the time, he claimed, but was determined to surmount them.

Yet he promptly sounded a note of sorrow and remorse in his account of the meeting of the party executive committee. "It was all against one," he claimed, "and in cases of this kind it is better than one against all. I was the one, and I accept the criticism; I am probably the only one of those present who is genuinely delighted that the others have managed to reach agreement."

A number of his listeners felt distinctly uneasy. It was embarrassing to see the way in which Herbert Wehner was forced to lose face, CDU MP Gerhard Reddemann claimed.

But it was by no means the first time in Herbert Wehner's long and chequered career that the SPD parliamentary party leader has been obliged to strew ashes on his head.

As he did so, not a few of his admirers felt he was holding, in his other hand, a fistful of salt to rub into Willy Brandt's wounds at the next opportunity.

Jürgen Lorenz

(Kieler Nachrichten, 23 June 1977)

Opposition fails in its latest move against Schmidt

Twice in swift succession the Bonn Opposition has launched a full-scale parliamentary attack on the Schmidt administration, and it was well advised to do so in the context of the budget debate in the Bundestag.

On two points the Constitutional Court had censured Chancellor Schmidt, or Finance Minister Schmidt as he was at the time, for contravening Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, in connection with the budget.

But vociferous though the latest attack on Herr Schmidt was, it failed to achieve its objective. SPD rebels abstained on the Finance Bill, but the Social and Free Democrat coalition retained a wafer-thin majority and Christian Democrat hopes were dashed.

The CDU/CSU failed to persuade Social Democrat rebels to vote against the Bill even though the motion tabled was merely one of censure rather than of "constructive no-confidence."

By the terms of Bundestag standing orders the only way to topple an administration in mid-term is to move a vote of constructive no-confidence as a result of which, provided the motion is passed, the Opposition leader automatically takes over as head of government.

But this is a procedure Christian Democrats are reluctant to use. They still vividly recall Rainer Barzel's attempt to unseat SPD Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1972. Its failure, and Herr Brandt's victory at the polls a few months later, marked the end of Herr Barzel's career as Shadow Chancellor.

It goes without saying that the Opposition capitalised on the Constitutional Court's censure of Helmut Schmidt in the course of the budget debate. But CDU/CSU attempts to cast the Chancellor in the mould of an unscrupulous lawbreaker or a deliberate advocate of sweeping social change carry little conviction.

All he may be accused of in the circumstances is negligence in continuing a practice dating back to the early days of Chancellor Adenauer.

The Christian Democrats shared power in Bonn for twenty years and are keen to regain it by 1980 at the latest. So, as Social Democrat Theodor Eschenburg pointed out, the CDU/CSU stands condemned by the Constitutional Court's ruling.

The outcome of the Opposition's appeal to the court is, on the other hand, to be welcomed inasmuch as a bad habit must now be changed.

The change will not make too great an inroad on political leeway. What is more, it is merely required in future, as the court is at pains to point out. It will certainly need to be respected by future governments whatever their party-political affiliations.

Opposition leader Helmut Kohl again challenged the legitimacy of the Schmidt government. It owed its wafer-thin victory at the polls last October to a breach of the constitution, he argued.

Herr Kohl accused the Chancellor in tones even more resounding and all-encompassing than those to which one is accustomed from Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Bavarian CSU, of pursuing uncertain policies.

Consumers, employees and employers are all unsure of themselves. It is high time the Chancellor regained the confidence of economic interests and parted company with ideas of State control.

But confidence is not exactly the Opposition's forte. It was recently rent by dissension over employment proposals and there can be no mistaking the temptation to opt for the line of least resistance and rely on more and more government spending.

Hanns-Martin Schleyer of the Confederation of German Industry only recently noted that the current Bonn government is abiding by the principles of the free-market economy and has done (and continues to do) what is right in boosting employment and the economy in general.

This statement from the side of in-

Continued on page 3

The German Tribune

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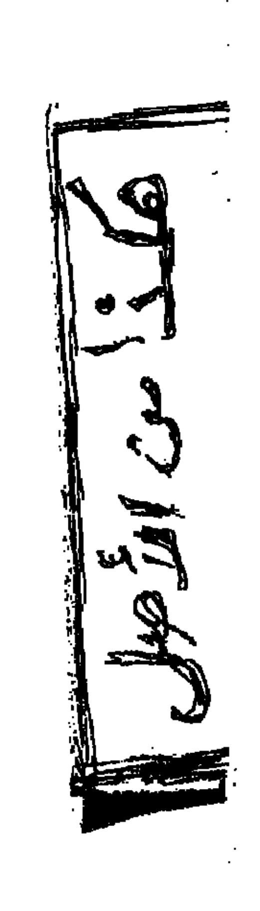
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■ BONN

Foreign Office completes diplomats' reshuffle

Now that Klaus Schütz, who recently resigned as Social Democratic mayor of West Berlin, has been named Bonn's anbassador-designate to Israel, the Foreign Office has all but completed a comprehensive reshuffle of its top-flight diplomats.

Herr Schütz will be taking over in Tel Aviv from Per Fischer, who has been this country's ambassador to Israel since February 1975. Herr Fischer will be returning to Bonn to prepare for his new post as deputy head of the Federal Republic of Germany's delegation at the Belgrade conference.

Herr Fischer is felt by both Israel and this country to have been only a qualified success in Tel Aviv. When the CSCE follow-up conference proper gets under way at the end of September, Bonn's delegation will be headed by state secretary Günther van Well of the Foreign Office.

Herr van Well will retain his duties in Bonn, however, so he will be handing over the day-to-day handling of the delegation's business to Herr Fischer, returning only for the final stage of the Belgrade talks.

At the Foreign Office Kurt Müller, hitherto Bonn's ambassador to Indonesia, has assumed overall responsibility for cultural affairs. His deputy will be Barthold Witte, promoted from the planning staff.

The central staff and administration department, an important and influential hub of the Foreign Office, is to be entrusted to Horst Röding, who since November 1973 has been this country's ambassador to Brazil. He is taking over from Wilhelm Hoppe, who has reached retirement age.

Comprehensive changes and additional appointments, not to mention higher grades, are to be undertaken in the department headed by Lothar Lahn, which deals with South America, South-East Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

By virtue of this country's membership of the UN Security Council and attendance at any number of international conferences this particular department is steadily gaining in importance.

The Foreign Office feels sub-departments need setting up to deal with the Near East, the Middle East, the Maghreb and Africa. This will mean upgrading the existing sections.

In order to meet international commitments the Foreign Office also feels the need for additional special envoys of senior rank, but it remains to be seen whether the Finance Ministry will approve the additional expenditure.

Wilhelm Haas of the Paris embassy has been appointed to the planning staff, which is headed by Klaus Kinkel, a close associate of Foreign Minister Genscher. Last but not least, Harald Ganss has been promoted to deputy Foreign Office spokesman.

Diethart Goos

(Die Welt, 24 June 1977)

Continued from page 2

dustry that might normally be expected to sympathise with the Opposition only goes to show how awry political alignments are at present and how little the Christian Democrats stand to gain by distinguishing between freedom, as represented by themselves, and socialism, as advocated by the SPD.

The coalition government is only too well aware of the SPD's continued difficulties with a socialist wing which propagates an equitable distribution of shortages as its objective.

Helmut Schmidt will only be able to govern regardless of this particular fringe for as long as parliamentary party leader Herbert Wehner succeeds in bringing SPD rebels to heel.

The moment Herr Wehner is no longer able to accomplish this feat Opposition censure motions will be tabled in earnest as motions of constructive no-confidence.

Willy Brandt recently noted how absurd it was that in 1930 Hermann Müller's Social Democratic Reich Cabinet came to grief over a mere 0.5-per-cent increase in unemployment insurance contributions.

The only conceivable current parallel is that doctrinaire Social Democrats might again make life difficult for an SPD Chancellor.

The budget debate in the Bundestag called to mind a similar scene five years ago. The day after Rainer Barzel's bid to unseat Chancellor Willy Brandt failed, the Social and Free Democratic coalition did indeed sustain a parliamentary defeat — over the Chancellor's budget estimates.

The excitement was not so intense this time round, and tension was not redoubled when the defence estimates came up for review either.

By the same token, however, the Social Democrats are equally unlikely to repeat the transition within six months from the slough of despond to the most glorious victory in SPD history.

Hans Schuster

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 June 1977)

Bundestag row over Africa policy

Views clashed in the Bundestag on policy towards Africa during the 22 June debate on economic cooperation estimates. Jürgen Todenhöfer, Opposition spokesman on development aid, accused the Bonn government of drawing no distinction whatever between the countries to which aid is given.

The recipients, he claimed, include countries that train guerrilla fighters for missions elsewhere with the aid of Soviet or Cuban assistance, not to mention what he chose to call "so-called liberation movements."

Spokesmen for both the government and the coalition parties stressed that Bonn's policy towards Africa fully accorded with that pursued by the United States and this country's fellow-members of the European Community.

Social Democratic development expert Uwe Holtz countered that Christian Democratic proposals on North-South and Africa policy would land this country beyond the pale internationally.

Social and Free Democrats, he maintained, fully supported the talks conducted by the government with leaders of African liberation movements.

These, he said, were contacts with the representatives of independent governments-to-be. The ban on extremism demanded by some members of the Bonn Opposition in the context of development aid policy must, Herr Holtz concluded, be rejected.

Herr Todenhöfer, on the other hand, felt that this country has so far responded "quite helplessly and inadequately" to recent trends in Africa, characterised as they have been by growing influence on the part of the GDR.

By providing development aid Bonn is, he claimed, presenting African countries and liberation movements with an opportunity of buying additional arms in the Soviet Union and other Communist States.

What is more, he added, Bonn has thrown away an opportunity of bringing influence to bear on South African policy. Rejection of apartheid and support for one-man one-vote has merely tended to exacerbate the situation.

Economic Cooperation Minister Marie Schlei's budget estimates were approved nonetheless, although the Opposition forced a division. Opposition bids to cut allocations for foreign travel and public relations work were likewise rejected.

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 June 1977)

Bonn's nuclear embargo

Continued from page 1

monopoly as a uranium supplier as an instrument of power politics.

Japan is so keen to gain a modicum of independence in energy policy that Tokyo has tried to inaugurate a reprocessing plant built with French assistance, but Washington has promptly made use of its veto.

— Bonn is working on the assumption that the entire Third World will be allowed to participate in atoms for peace programmes, this being a demand which neatly brackets this country's political and economic interests.

Provided no special restrictions are imposed on the Third World countries the Federal Republic of Germany should fare well in exporting nuclear power stations — an export sector in which it can more than hold its own.

— In future Bonn will only accept changes in the terms of nuclear export trade that are the subject of international agreement. The Federal Republic of Germany is not prepared to undertake further unilateral commitments.

Helmut Schmidt may be overestimating Bonn's leverage on this point, but many countries certainly share this viewpoint.

Regardless whether agreement is reached by the committee of experts appointed by the London summit or by the international conference Mr Carter hopes to hold this autumn with a view to setting up an "alliance for survival" the current pause represents a welcome cooling-off period.

In the final analysis, however, the outcome will epend on whether or not the United States is in a position to meet in full international requirements of new and reprocessed nuclear fuel.

This is probably a problem that will be with us for the remainder of the century. Mr Carter's prime objective, the containment of nuclear proliferation, certainly calls for an impressive degree of self-restraint.

If his policy is to prove successful the United States must resist the temptation to consolidate its own power by imposing nuclear tutelage on smaller countries and medium-sized powers.

Agreement at the forthcoming talks would be more than welcome, but eight years' experience with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which was originally intended to permit the have-nots to develop without let or hindrance in the civilian nuclear sector, would seem to warrant a dash of scepticism.

Kurt Becker

(Die Zeit, 24 June 1977)

Schmidt to visit Poland

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is to visit Poland from 20 to 23 September, Foreign Office state secretary Günther van Well and Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Jozef Czyrek agreed after two days of talks in Bonn.

The Chancellor will be repaying the visit to this country paid by Polish Party leader Edward Gierek in June last year. Herr Schmidt intends mainly to discuss economic topics. He will be accompanied by a delegation composed mainly of economists and industrialists.

SPD chairman Willy Brandt and Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, Minister of State at the Chancellor's Office, left for a four-day tour of Poland on 27 June. Herr Brandt was expected to meet Mr Gierek in Olsztyn, formerly East Prussia.

Later this year Wolgang Mischnick, leader of the Free Democratic parliamentary party, and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher are also due to visit Warsaw.

Foreign Office staff regard this spate of travel as evidence that ties between Bonn and Warsaw are beginning to return to normal after a chilly period in recent months.

Relations were clouded by anti-German campaigns in the Polish press and massive criticism of Bonn by the Polish media.

Günther van Well and Jozef Czyrek reviewed all aspects of mutual ties in the course of their Bonn talks. Last year Chancellor Schmidt and General Secretary Gierek agreed not only to closer ties in the humanitarian sector, but also to youth exchange, the lifting of travel restrictions and more extensive economic ties.

Diethart Goos

(Die Welt, 24 June 1977)

Bundestag approves direct Euro-poll

The Bonn Bundestag has approved in principle the holding of direct elections to the European Parliament. The necessary legislation was passed unanimously.

Following Italy and France, this country is the third member of the Nine to do so. Bonn will not be deciding on the mode of election until this autumn.

The French National Assembly approved similar legislation on the same evening, 23 June.

dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 18 June 1977)

■ POLITICS

The two super-powers have consolidated their positions, says writer

Ostpolitik having stood in the foreground within the Bonn foreign policy concept and having overshadowed the problems of the Atlantic Alliance, a shift in emphasis is now taking place.

Since 1973, the Year of Europe, the Year of the Middle East and the energy crisis, we have been aware that the alliance structure and alliance policy of the Atlantic world merit more attention. The complexity of crises in the West and of East-West efforts at achieving detente rank among the foremost foreign policy problems of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Dieter Dettke, formerly a staff member of the German Society for Foreign Affairs and now a research expert of the SPD in the Bundestag, describes the elements of Western policy at the beginning of the seventies as follows in his study.

- New orientation of America's foreign policy under Nixon and Kissinger.
- Development of the European Communities and the trans-Atlantic dialogue.
- Soviet *Westpolitik* in relation to Western detente policy, and above all:
- The effect of US-Soviet bilateralism on the Atlantic Alliance.

Herr Dettke believes that the Nixon Administration's foreign policy was an attempt to restore American dominance in the Western Alliance and on a global scale, following the damage US foreign policy sustained — both domestically and as an economic and military power — as a result of its Vietnam commitment.

At the same time, developments detrimental to the United States — as for instance in Vietnam — were to be reversed.

Moreover, Herr Dettke arrives at the conclusion that, in terms of security policy, Western Europe profited from this development since the US-Soviet rapprochement has reduced the risk of an armed conflict in Western Europe still further.

Furthermore, these developments contributed towards attempts at arriving (for the first time since the Second World War) at comprehensive arrangements in the realm of East-West relations in Europe which have improved security while at the same time reducing the chances of political and military independence for Western Europe.

Closely linked with this question, according to Herr Dettke, is the role of US-Soviet bilateralism in the international setup, and the author puts forward two differing theses concerning the effects of this bilateralism on the structure of the international system.

The first thesis finds its expression in the French reaction to the US-Soviet agreement on the prevention of nuclear wars of 22 June 1973. This agreement must above all be interpreted as the possibility of a US-Soviet condominium within the international setup.

Viewed from this angle, the agreement is an attempt to build up a new system of rule on an international scale based on a US-Soviet accord.

The second thesis views this agreement above all as a qualified renunciation of the use of force which, essentially, legalises a state of affairs which has de facto existed for some time.

The effects of US-Soviet bilateralism on the political situation in Europe, which has given rise to controversies in the Federal Republic of Germany, present themselves in a different light from the American vantage point.

And it is to the author's credit that he has presented this and other problems from a number of different perspectives.

Thus, for instance, when writing on the problem of bilateralism he says: The strategic dilemma of the United States in the late sixties and early seventies became more acute inasmuch as Washington's commitment in Europe — as opposed to earlier years — was marked by a nuclear balance of power, the United States had greater economic difficulties and had to reconcile growing domestic controversies with military stabilisation in US-Soviet relations.

The resulting need for a limitation of competition with the Soviet Union was coupled on the part of Moscow, too, with a status quo-oriented policy with simultaneous attempts at bringing about economic coperation on a US-Soviet level as well as on a Soviet-West European level.

Moreover, the two super powers, which are largely dependent on exports, weathered the 1973/74 oil crisis relatively unscathed. In fact, they might even have come out of it strengthened, while Japan and Western Europe were weakened.

In summing up, Herr Dettke arrives at the conclusion that, due to the US-Soviet accord, the dominant position of the two super powers within the international system was consolidated and that this must be viewed as the outstanding feature of the international setup.

> **Dieter Dettke: "Allianz im Wandel. Amerikanisch-europäische Sicherheitsbeziehungen im Zeichen des Bilateralismus der Supermächte. Published by Alfred Metzner-Verlag, Frankfurt, 1976; 244 p., DM44.00.**

At times Dieter Dettke presents almost too much empirical material, exposing himself to the danger of describing rather than analysing problems and events.

It must unfortunately also be noted that his work has a major shortcoming: the linguistic quality of his study is unsatisfactory.

All in all, Herr Dettke has presented a plethora of material on the problem of relations within the Western Alliance under the impact of US-Soviet bilateralism — material which will prove useful in further research into these problems.

Christian Hacke

(Das Parlament, 4 June 1977)

The two Germanies seen in a world context

Curt Gasteyger's speech at the CDU's Düsseldorf Party Conference made him known to a broader public in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The press noted that the speech by the Swiss Professor of International Politics had met with only lukewarm interest on the part of the delegates to the Conference.

What the CDU has been so vehemently denying is now to be found in Gasteyger's book which has been on the market for some months and which is likely to meet with considerable interest (and rightly so).

Herr Gasteyger's interest concentrates on the question as to what the two Germanies mean for international politics in general and for Europe in particular.

The author attempts to compare the Federal Republic of Germany with the German Democratic Republic. His questions are: What is the position of the two Germanies within the framework of Europe? How are they bedded in their respective alliance systems? And what is their relationship with the leading powers within their respective alliance as well as with each other?

The period under review encompasses the years after 1972. The author views the treaties with the East and the Basic Treaty as a natural turning point.

In describing the subject of his research, he is confronted with a contradiction. He wants to examine the position of the two German states in those realms where they make world politics.

One of these realms — recognised as important by both Germanies — is the UN... and yet Herr Gasteyger fails to delve into this aspect.

There can be no justification for this, especially since the author points out that it is important for the GDR to make use of its seat in the UN to consolidate its own position and to differentiate itself, gaining a profile, from the other Germany.

After a careful depiction of the initial positions of the two German states, in which he restricts himself to the essential, the author delves into the whole range of political issues (ranging from European policy via alliance policy and detente all the way to *Deutschlandpolitik*).

Professor Gasteyger astutely arrives at the conclusion that the GDR's options are much more limited than those of the Federal Republic of Germany. Both

> **Curt Gasteyger: "Die beiden deutschen Staaten in der Weltpolitik". (Piper Sozialwissenschaft Volume 37, Internationale Politik). Published by Verlag Piper & Co., Munich, 1976; 193 p., DM24.00.**

the "internal development" of the GDR and its foreign policy are "one-dimensional, in other words the GDR is essentially orientated by its relationship with the Soviet Union."

In both these sectors the GDR lacks "those additional dimensions which enable the Federal Republic of Germany to act independently outside its ties with the United States as the leading power of the Alliance."

The GDR's foreign policy is short of an important dimension which is of paramount importance for the Federal Republic of Germany: The former's relations with the "counter world power", in other words the United States, do not go beyond a minimum of diplomatic activities.

In summing up it can be said that the starting positions of the two German states, their foreign policy ties and their economic resources are so different that their role in world politics cannot but differ accordingly.

Herr Gasteyger surprises the reader by the following statement at the beginning of his book: "This book is based on an assumption which seems to be at odds with the present political situation in Europe... the much vaunted and disputed 'German question' remains open."

According to him, this is due to the fact that the "phenomenon Germany" is much too complex in its historic, intellectual, political and economic dimensions and much too weighty and interesting as to be brushed aside and taken off the political agenda to be filed away as a chapter of European politics. The situation in Germany, the relations between the two German states and their future development are of major importance.

One of Herr Gasteyger's theses goes as follows: A stable GDR and a less insecure party leadership in that country is a better and more cooperative partner for the Federal Government.

In this connection, the author asks himself whether it is meaningful to adhere to the communal concept of a nation. In fact, he even goes so far as to advocate a "separate GDR citizenship", saying that this would be an important and clarifying step because it would be the "logical consequence" of the course the two German states took in their post-war development and would at the same time accept a political reality which points to a continued existence of two German states.

No matter how well-founded legally this reality can turn other standpoints into fiction. Its political effect would become counter-productive if — as is the case of the GDR — it were to cause irritation and insecurity instead of promoting the self-confidence that is so necessary for detente.

This plea for two German citizenships is not to be found in the CDU's brochure on its 25th Federal Party Conference. Instead, the brochure contains the following passage from the CDU *Deutschlandpolitik* guidelines: "We shall adhere to the concept of one, indivisible German citizenship."

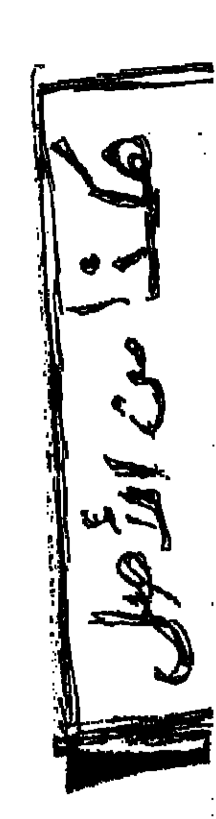
Curt Gasteyger's plea is argumentative and has its roots in the analysis of future German-German relations, while the CDU thesis is peremptory and dismisses Gasteyger's ideas.

Professor Gasteyger was unbiased enough to accept the suggestion put forward by Bonn's plenipotentiary to East Berlin, Herr Gaus, which the latter expressed in a *Spiegel* interview.

One can reject Curt Gasteyger's ideas, but before doing so it would be wise to delve into them thoroughly.

Wilhelm Bruns

(Das Parlament, 18 June 1977)



■ PEOPLE

Wernher von Braun's dream was for a new 'Space awareness' for Man



No era produces more than a handful of people who, due to their unique qualities, become a legend during their lifetime. And who can doubt that in our technological age the late Wernher von Braun assumed this position when the first men landed on the moon on 20 July 1969?

To do justice to a man like him is anything but easy. What comes to mind is Peenemünde and the V-2 rocket, the years in Huntsville, Alabama, and the many rocket projects during that time and, of course, "Saturn V" which was to carry the astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins on man's first visit to the moon.

Wernher von Braun was instrumental in Man's first steps on the moon, having helped to realise this age-old dream, not only as a scientist, but also as the forerunner of space philosophy, since the space researcher von Braun was also a humanist.

Space research was for him the great hope of mankind, and he believed that it would help to do away with wars, providing Man with a "new cosmic awareness."

This was the utopian dimension of his thoughts throughout his life — even when space enthusiasm had passed its zenith in the seventies and he and his colleagues had to devote themselves once more to earthly problems.

Wernher von Braun never deviated from his principle of hope. Space research remained for him a one-way road.

As he put it in 1971, "I believe that space travel will find a bread-and-butter basis, as they say in America, in the seventies and that it will prove so useful as to make it impossible for Man to imagine how he could ever have lived without it.

"After all, we can hardly imagine today how Man managed to live without a telephone... but then Goethe never knew what a telephone was. I am convinced that in the year 2000 people will ask themselves how their forebears ever managed without telecommunications satellites."

Modern communications and computer technology is the bread-and-butter basis which Wernher von Braun meant and on which his optimism that Man would land on Mars in the not-too-distant future rested.

He was born a German citizen on 23 March 1912. Following his high school graduation at the age of 18 he enrolled at the Technical University in Berlin and began delving into rockets.

Professor Hermann Oberth provided him with the opportunity to engage in his research. Two years later von Braun was commissioned by the Wehrmacht to carry our a research project.

Together with his assistants he began to tinker. The first success came in 1934 when his small research group fired the A-2, a liquid propulsion rocket which achieved an altitude of 2.5 kilometres.

By 1937 Wernher von Braun had a research staff of 80. He and his team moved to Peenemünde, developing the famous rocket centre — a joint project of the Wehrmacht and the Luftwaffe.

By the time war broke out, the rocket development had progressed to Project A-5.

Starting from 1939, the main objective was to develop a long-range ballistic missile which was officially dubbed A-4 and which later achieved fame under the name of V-2.

The first successful V-2 test took place on 3 October 1942.

Shortly before the capitulation of Germany Wernher von Braun and his team placed themselves at the disposal of the Americans.

He first stepped onto American soil in September 1945, having previously complied with an American request to carry out further tests with the V-2. In America he was appointed director of a rocket development department in Fort Bliss, Texas.

The V-2 which he developed further in Fort Bliss attained an altitude of 400 kilometres. Hermes II, the first supersonic aircraft was also developed in Fort Bliss.

But the actual breakthrough to applied space research took place in Huntsville, Alabama, where Wernher von Braun's team had moved to in 1950.

The Redstone rocket which was developed there at the labs of the US Army was the United States' first major rocket system. It was not until after this success that Wernher von Braun, then aged 43, became an American citizen on 14 April 1955.

The Jupiter and Pershing rockets followed. Jupiter carried the first American Satellite, Explorer I, into space.

Work on the Saturn V, the forerunner of Saturn V, began in September 1958.

Wernher von Braun worked in Huntsville for 15 years — since 1970 on behalf of Nasa as director of the Marshall Space Flight Centre. This is where the Skylab project, the first manned space station of the United States, was evolved. It was also at the Marshall Centre that Wernher von Braun carried out his first research into the "Space Shuttle" system.

In March 1970 he became the deputy director of Nasa in Washington — a position in which he had to devote himself primarily to planning tasks. This job was unable to hold him for very long, and industry, which had long been wooing him, finally got its man.



Wernher von Braun (Photo: dpa)

Fairchild Industries, one of America's major space corporations, employed him as vice-president in 1972. He held this job until his death. Inbetween he served on the board of Daimler-Benz in Stuttgart.

As president of the National Space Travel Institute of the United States Wernher von Braun remained faithful to the utopia of the conquest of space by man — a utopia partially realised in the twentieth century — even during his time as industry executive.

Jürgen Kramer

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 June 1977)

Kurt Rebmann, a 'dove' nominated new Chief Prosecutor

Once before — in 1974 — Kurt Rebmann, the highest-ranking civil servant at the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Justice, was considered the most likely candidate for the office of Chief Federal Prosecutor. After a long tug-of-war between the political parties, the post went to Siegfried Buback.

Bonn Minister of Justice Jochen Vogel now wants to make Rebmann, 53, the successor of Chief Federal Prosecutor Buback who was assassinated by terrorists on 7 April.

But even Cabinet approval does not necessarily mean that Rebmann will get the post since the Bundesrat still has to approve the decision.

There can be little doubt, however, that the CDU/CSU-governed states will have no objection to the non-partisan Stuttgart civil servant.

In the discussion about the successor of Buback all parties have so far successfully tried to arrive at a decision on the basis of merit rather than that of party considerations. Bad experiences in past years have taught the parties that professional qualifications in such a job matter more than party affiliations.

And Kurt Rebmann certainly has the necessary qualifications. Before joining the Baden-Württemberg Representative Office in Bonn in 1956, the graduate lawyer had already served for six years as a judge and as research worker at the Federal Constitutional Court.

He returned to Stuttgart in 1959 and became department head at the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Justice.

In 1962 Rebmann went to Mainz where he became administrative director of the second German television channel (ZDF) and, as such, played a major part in the development of the network.

In 1963, Prime Minister Kurt Georg Kiesinger prevailed upon him to return to the Ministry of Justice and promoted



Kurt Rebmann (Photo: dpa)

the 39-year old to the rank of *Ministerialdirigent*.

In his career at the state Ministry of Justice, Herr Rebmann was the deputy of three Ministers: He was appointed *Ministerialdirektor* by Wolfgang Haussmann (FDP), and this made him second-in-command at the Ministry.

Rudolf Schieler (SPD), Justice Minister of the Grand Coalition, was as little willing to forgo the services of Rebmann as was his successor, the present Minister of Justice Traugott Bender (CDU).

As the Ministers changed, each one put him in a different political pigeonhole. In Wolfgang Haussmann's time he was considered "close to the old Liberals", and a few years later Conservatives suspected him of secretly being a Social Democrat.

Today, he is being criticised by some of being a CDU henchman. This was one of the main reasons why he was considered a possible CDU candidate for the Mayoral election in Stuttgart in 1974.

After a great deal of hesitation Rebmann himself said that he considered himself a middle-of-the-road man politically, saying that he had always expressed his opinions frankly, and that this is how he wants to keep it in the future.

Herr Rebmann has a very clear idea of the office that might be awaiting him, and his proposals to the Federal Ministry of Justice are in keeping with these ideas.

Although he does not want to talk about details until he has been definitely appointed, everybody familiar with his career to date can easily enough figure out how he would handle this office.

It was after all Kurt Rebmann who carefully and circumspectly made the administrative decisions in connection with the Baader-Meinhof trial in Stuttgart-Stammheim — from the planning of the court building itself all the way to detention conditions for the accused.

It was also Rebmann who, following the death of Holger Meins in November 1974 as the result of a hunger strike, bought a mobile intensive care station for Stammheim.

Rebmann's numerous functions in rehabilitation institutions for ex-prisoners and his work in connection with the Criminal Code, all of which bears him out as a "dove", are entirely out of keeping with the enemy image as "a representative of the police state" such as is nurtured by extremists.

Klaus G. Wertel

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 15 June 1977)

■ ECONOMICS

The causes and the cure for an ailing economy

Professor Herbert Giersch, 58, director of the Institute for World Economy in Kiel, recently held a lecture in Bonn in the course of which he analysed the present economic situation. He determined the roots of recession and unemployment and showed ways out of the crisis. *Welt am Sonntag* published his most important theses.

1 The worst post-war recession which reached its climax in 1975 was essentially brought about by:

• The inflationary financing of the Vietnam War by the USA.

• Too long adherence to fixed exchange rates in Europe (until 1973).

• Promises of full employment which could only be made good by a non-anticipated inflation, in other words only as long as there was a money illusion among the labour force.

• An anti-inflationary policy, embarked upon after the introduction of floating exchange rates and without having been announced beforehand, thus leading to a collision between monetary policy and wage policy.

• The oil price shock which reduced the distributable production growth and which had to be absorbed solely by profits (which had diminished anyway) because the shock was not taken into account on the wage front.

• The collapse of long-term profit anticipation and the simultaneous unwillingness to invest due to diminished profits.

• A growth pessimism which spread after 1972.

2 The following major lessons can be drawn from the worst post-war recession:

• Inflation is not a means of providing employment because money illusion which has eroded over the years cannot be restored at short notice.

• The Central Bank can, since it is ineffectual where employment policy is concerned, concentrate entirely on reverting to the objective of providing monetary stability.

• In order to prevent a collision on the wage front, the Central Bank must announce its monetary objectives in good time before the next round of collective bargaining.

It must then adhere to these objectives without attempting to stabilise exchange rates and interest rates simultaneously.

• In a given monetary and fiscal policy the degree of employment depends on wages in real terms being low enough to support sufficient marginal jobs or marginal businesses profitably.

• Growing wages in real terms stimulate productivity, but if they (as for instance due to a collision with monetary policy) grow too much, the inclination to invest for expansion purposes diminishes (due to diminished profits) while (due to cost pressure through wages) the necessity of streamlining remains or, indeed, increases, inducing labour-saving technical progress which leads to technological unemployment.

• Therefore, the responsibility for full employment (following the end of the money illusion and within the framework of a previously announced monetary policy) lies with the parties in collective bargaining whose nominal wage increases will determine the extent to which real wages will rise, how many jobs will remain competitive at the same level of productivity, how many will become competitive again and how many must be newly created.

3 The new upswing can be assessed as follows:

• The upswing is hampered everywhere by a lack of long-range confidence. Business fears that inflation might be rekindled, especially by wage increases and a new reduction of profit margins in the wake of a restrictive monetary policy that would be necessitated by such wage increases.

• Unless confidence can be restored by a lasting consensus (a concerted action over several years) between the parties in collective bargaining and the state, the upswing will remain very gradual and will be disrupted time and again, thus not helping to reduce unemployment swiftly.

4 Unemployment and the investment gap are two sides of the same coin — especially in the Federal Republic of Germany — and that for the following reasons:

• Due to the wage pressure after 1969 (adjustment inflation) which delayed the adjustment of exchange rates and the advance of developing nations on our markets even during the 1974/75 recession many jobs irrevocably lost their international competitiveness. Since our jobless are hardly prepared to take on work at reduced real wages and since the level of real wages cannot be reduced by means of an "inflation trick" unemployment can be markedly reduced only if a sufficiently great number of new and highly productive jobs are created.

• Investments that would create jobs can also be made if high wages act as a productivity and streamlining impulse. But in that case investments must concentrate on the capital goods industry ... and such investments require a great deal of faith in the future.

• Demand for durable consumer goods could induce investments for expansion. But households, too, are only prepared to invest in material goods if they feel that their future incomes are secure. What matters is the income that can be achieved on a permanent basis — in other words, faith in job security.

• Since jobs that would provide real wages as demanded still have to be created, the unemployment problem of today is not comparable to that of 1966/67, but to that of the reconstruction phase of 1948. Ten years go, when real wages (adjusted for inflation) were too low, there was an excessive demand for labour — a demand that could not be filled by the domestic labour market.

This resulted in the influx of foreign workers. Today the situation is reversed: We do not have a deficit of labour but a deficit of jobs.

The consequence is that we need a productive policy aimed at creating jobs as in the days of Erhard and Böckler — and not a policy of an unqualified expansion of demand as has been recommended to us abroad and as would have been suitable for the sixties.

5 In order to cope with the structural changes necessitated by growth and the economic situation on a world scale we must — for the sake of full employment — promote the adaptability of our production structure, the mobility of labour, the willingness of our existing industry to embark on innovation programmes and the establishment of new industries:

• As opposed to a cohesive and backward economy, as that in the Soviet Union, in our country profitable and productive investment opportunities cannot be provided by the authorities.

Only the innovative mechanisms of competition can help in our case — mechanisms which in business function along the same lines as in economic research and which in both instances entail the risk of failure.

In order to revitalise competition we need high recognition bonuses and pioneer profits as an incentive to take a



Professor Herbert Giersch

(Photo: Jürgen Wiech

risk (and when speaking of profits we naturally mean profits after taxes) and generous tax incentives for risky investments and for newly-founded businesses.

• Regional structural changes must offset site innovations which exist beyond our borders and which are particularly important for underdeveloped nations.

This requires a sliding scale of wages and of industrial site prices between the central concentration areas and the peripheral regions where those branches of industry are concentrated which are threatened by global structural changes — or a regional policy which would create such a sliding scale of costs for industry.

• The same applies for vertical and inter-vocational wage relations. What has been levelled off artificially must — via the market or by *economic policy* — be "de-distorted" in order to relieve the shortage of *skilled* labour; performance must be rewarded and unemployment among marginal groups reulting from well-intentioned but bad policy must be reduced.

• Apart from more flexibility in wage relations, there should also be more flexibility concerning working time. In order to bring this about we do not need more but fewer laws — as for instance the abolition of the compulsory closing hour for shops.

Herbert Giersch

(Welt am Sonntag, 19 June 1977)

Parties outline plans to combat unemployment

Bonn is still wrestling with the problem of finding the best concept for the reduction of the high number of unemployed (at present just under one million).

On 13 June the Federal Committee of the CDU (the so-called Small Party Conference) approved a programme for the restoration of full employment. The much-disputed formula was accepted unanimously, albeit only in principle.

The SPD also expressed itself in favour of additional labour market measures.

The FDP presented no new proposals, but reiterated the necessity of adhering to the present anti-inflationary policy and of immediately implementing the Government programme for investments for the future. As an FDP spokesman put it, "All parties are at present engaged in a thinking process."

The SPD proposals can be summed up as follows:

• Tenth compulsory school year.

• Reduction of overtime and extra shifts through a new law governing working time.

• The creation of new part-time jobs in government service.

• The Federal Government is to examine whether a "baby year" is to be introduced for young mothers and whether the retirement age with pension for women is to be reduced from hitherto 60 to 59 years. Moreover, the Cabinet is to examine whether a labour market levy for all those holding a job (including civil servants) would be meaningful.

The FDP Social Affairs expert Schmidt-Kempten had this to say on the subject: "I don't think much of ever-new programmes. The problem is whether the jobs which would thus become available would be filled by qualified workers from the multitude of unemployed. We already have a shortage of skilled labour."

He went on to say that what matters now was to create enough training places for young people.

The big row over full employment programmes failed to materialise in the CDU. The Federal Committee unanimously approved a programme which CSU chairman Franz-Josef Strauss and some CDU politicians had sharply criticised.

The programme still has to be passed by the CDU Executive Committee. Once this has been done, CDU and CSU want to arrive at a modus vivendi. The CDU proposals are as follows:

• An investment programme with tax relief for business is to provide some 750,000 additional jobs by 1980.

• More state investment.

• Introduction of an across-the-board progression in the tax rate.

• Temporary reduction of the flexible retirement age from 63 to 60. This is to provide 1975,000 additional jobs next year already.

• Child-rearing money for mothers until the child has completed its first year. It is hoped that this will provide 50,000 jobs.

• Gradual introduction of the tenth vocational training year (another 35,000 jobs).

Jochim Stoltenberg

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 14 June 1977)

■ TECHNOLOGY

You'll be able to 'dial' whatever you want on tomorrow's TV

When the official at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Bonn dialled the telephone number in England he didn't hear a voice replying. All he heard was a high-pitched whistling sound. But this was exactly what he wanted to hear.

Satisfied, he pressed a button on his otherwise perfectly normal telephone and put down the receiver.

Next to the telephone there was a TV set on which suddenly a picture appeared — or, to be exact: a written text. The desired link with the central computer of the British Postal Authority was established.

"Good day," read the English text on the screen, and then followed the question as to the caller's telephone number.

Through a remote control system with only a few buttons more than on regular telephones, the postal official transmitted his telephone number. Only a few seconds later the British postal computer identified the caller and greeted him as the German Postal Authority.

From then on the caller had a wide range of services at his disposal. By pressing a number he could ask the computer whether other subscribers had left a message for him, and the message would promptly appear on the screen.

He could also ask for weather forecasts or train timetables, including current delays; he could ask for the test results of the British Consumer Society or could engage in electronic games on the screen. "Situations Vacant" are as much part of the programme as are gardening advice and jokes.

With this demonstration — first for its own Administrative Council and a day later before journalists — the German Postal Authority wanted to draw attention to a British invention which will be presented at the Berlin Telecommunications Exhibition in late August.

The Berlin exhibition will demonstrate that a normal TV set can receive more than just the standard programmes. At a relatively low cost such a TV set can be adapted to serve as a multi-purpose unit.

There are essentially two systems attempting to conquer this field. Unfortunately their names are confusingly similar, one being called Videotext and the other Screentext.

• Videotext, which newspaper publishers like to call screen newspaper, is a programme which can be received together with the normal TV programme along the lines of a piggy-back principle.

In a normal TV picture there is a free marginal frequency. This suffices for the transmission of a programme containing up to 100 brief items of information.

All the viewer needs in order to receive this programme is a decoder which can at present be had for DM 600, but is likely to cost no more than DM 200 in the early eighties when mass production gets under way. The only other thing that is needed is a remote control unit with a couple of extra buttons.

The attraction of these short texts which anybody can switch on instead of the current TV programme lies in the fact that they can differ according to local requirements, encompassing the latest sports news, traffic information, stock exchange quotations, etc.

This system will be presented in Berlin by the German broadcasting networks and by a joint editorial office of German newspaper publishers.

The whole thing was preceded by a long tug-of-war since, according to present law, such texts fall in the category "broadcasting" while the publishers consider them as "electronic newspapers". According to the publishers, the term "broadcasting" must be revised in order to prevent the broadcasting stations from competing with newspapers even on a local scale.

• The second system, which the experts have called Screentext, is the combination of TV-screen and telephone as presented in Bonn recently. With this system the viewer can not only choose one standard programme, but can ask the computer via his telephone to provide him with specific information. The Postal Authority, said State Secretary Dietrich Elias at the presentation of the system, view this as a possibility of making better use of its telephone network.

The Postal Authority would like to provide a network of computers which can be dialled by telephone after a major experiment which is not expected to begin before 1980. But the Postal Authority is neither willing nor is it permitted to bear any responsibility for the programme.

The subscriber to the system would only need an adapter for his TV set and for his telephone plus a keyboard (similar to that of a typewriter) for contact with the computer. Eventual cost to the subscriber is not expected to exceed DM 700.

The possibilities of the Screentext system are considerably greater than those of the screen newspaper.

The system could provide job vacancies and excursion advice as well as dialogues with other computers. It would thus be possible to obtain one's bank balance and to make transfers of money via screen and telephone. The system would also provide access to archives and other data banks.

But since the Postal Authority can only provide the technology and since the system is costlier than Videotext (because apart from the telephone call charges the cost of information, too, has to be paid for) it remains to be seen whether and when this system will materialise. *Peter Rosien*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 20 June 1977)

Computer has all the timetables on the tip of its 'tongue'

At first the telephone caller does not believe his ears. The voice at the other end says: "This is the automatic time-table information for the most important trains from Frankfurt. Dial your postal code or the telephone area code of your destination."

To start with, the would-be traveller will more likely than not be so confused as to put down the receiver.

After all, his is a journey into the unexplored blue yonder of the most sophisticated computer technology — a journey undertaken jointly with the Railway System and the Postal Authority: the traveller's eloquent conversation partner at the other end of the wire is a mammoth computer.

In conjunction with Dornier GmbH, Friedrichshafen, the central communications office of the Postal Authority in Darmstadt has embarked on a pilot project, employing a computer-controlled ghost voice with which to provide Frankfurt telephone subscribers with timetable information for 300 destinations on a "dialogue" basis.

Without resorting to unwieldy timetables, the patient "Samt" (Spoken edition in the Multiplex-System) (as the system has been dubbed) directs the traveller to the right platform, gives information on time-saying connections, tells him whether or not there is a diner and, of course, gives him the price of the journey.

But before receiving all this information, the traveller must dial the intended date of departure, class of travel and destination. The eloquent computer repeats all this information, giving the caller time to call again should he be so startled as to be unable to gather his wits at first.

For the purpose of this technological innovation, experts evolved a talking machine with an unlimited vocabulary. They transferred 45 sounds — the natural elements of the (German) language, converting them into physically usable symbols.

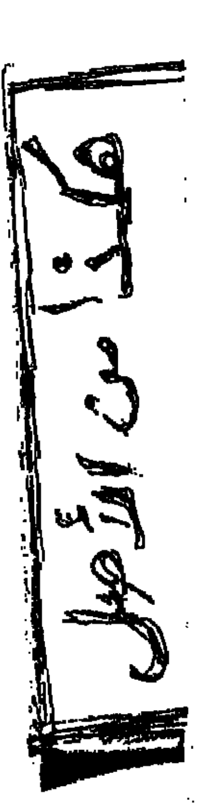
Since the computer language is not supposed to sound as staccato as depicted in science-fiction, a great number of transitional shades between the individual sounds (approximately 1,000) were stored, taking into account that the finished sentence should sound melodious.

A radio announcer's recorded announcements served as a basis for this speaking computer. The initially separate and later synthesised fragments of words are surprisingly similar to the human voice.

The pilot project which is subsidised by the Federal Ministry of Research and which is estimated to cost about DM 700,000 will be tested in Frankfurt this summer.

The project, which is getting under way haltingly, is later to become routine: Any skilled secretary will be able to obtain comprehensive information by dialling "Samt". *H.-J. Kaffsack/dpa*

(Die Welt, 16 June 1977)



■ SCIENCE

Call for national planetary research programme

The largest volcano in the solar system is on Mars — a fairly small planet. Venus boasts sheer rock faces, although it was expected to be covered in shifting desert sands. Jupiter's famed red spot is a hurricane that has raged for at least three hundred years.

Comets are large, dirty snowballs several kilometres in diameter. Our own Earth registers a net gain of roughly 4,000 tons a year due to continuous fall of cosmic dust.

These are but a handful of the exciting discoveries made in recent years in planetary research. They are no more than a foretaste of what remains to be learnt about the solar system.

Or so the authors of a newly-published memorandum on planetary research claim. The memorandum is published under the auspices of the German Research Association (DFG) and advocates the drafting of a research programme with a view to intensifying planetary research in this country.

The memorandum starts with a review of international planetary research compiled by a number of German scientists well known in their respective disciplines.

They point out that planetary research need not be the prerogative of America and Russia with their costly and ambitious space research programmes. Smaller countries also stand a fair chance of being able to contribute to the fund of knowledge newly gained.

*Laboratory experiments and theoreti*cal work in small countries have often been known to result in the small fry's research scientists making crucial breakthroughs and being keenly sought with a view to cooperation in larger research enterprises.

The planets are among the most longstanding subjects of Man's quest for knowledge. Planetary orbits have been observed for centuries, yet despite centuries of astronomy and the spectacular results of space research many riddles remain to be solved.

"We still have no clear and detailed idea how the solar system or the Moon evolved or what circumstances must coincide before life itself is a possibility," the memorandum notes.

The following, then, are the headings under which the memorandum lists the subjects that between them constitute planetary research: the composition, evolution and dynamics of constituent members of the solar system (these being the planets, moons, planetoids and comets) and the make-up of planetary atmospheres.

The objective of the memorandum is to underline the significance of planetary research and the stimulus it can prove for both industry and technology. The Federal Republic of Germany for one cannot afford to dispense with this stimulus.

Professor Heinz Maier-Leibnitz, president of the DFG, has this to say in the preface: "As in previous memoranda the DFG has chosen to point out imminent shortcomings in the cultural and sicentific development of the Federal Republic of Germany with a view to forestalling a shortfall in scientific research and making good ground that has been lost in indispensable research sectors."

The DFG sees planetary research as "boosting overall awareness of the limited nature of terrestrial resources and opportunities, the need for planned exploitation of these resources and for moderation in encroaching on the environment in view of the laws of physics, chemistry and geology."

How did the solar system come about? Analysis of meteorites and samples of lunar rock has enabled scientists to glean detailed if not exhaustive knowledge about the origin and development of our corner of the universe.

The Sun was initially neither very dense nor particularly hot. What is more, it extended far beyond the present trajectory of the Earth. It could more accurately be described as a kind of solar fog.

As this fog grew chillier, firm particles condensed, gradually growing into larger bodies, the planets. This explanation is obviously a nutshell outline of a course of events extending over thousands of millions of years.

It may, however, be inferred from the mineral count of certain primitive meteorites, which testifies to density, temperature and pressure in various stages of condensation.

With the aid of carbon dating techniques scientists calculate the age of the solar system to be 4,600 million years.

It is a long-established fact that planetary orbits are stable and do not chop and change, but in an age of interplanetary travel and space probes a substantial number of orbital quirks still await explanation.

Planetary orbits may be stable but this is by no means true of planetoids, or asteroids. Under the influence of the fields of gravity of other heavenly bodies their trajectories are sometimes most erratic. They are the rogues and vagabonds of the solar system.

Yet even the planets toss and turn as they slowly plough their furrow through space. It is a slow process, mind you, but changes in the inclination of planetary equators are the cause of significant fluctuations in climate.

The celestial bodies that still present scientists with most teasers are the comets. This is what the authors of the memorandum have to say about them:



Photographs of two planets taken by the Mariner 10 spacecraft — at left, the south Pole side of Mercury, which is similar to the surface of the Moon, and right, cloud over Venus. (Photo: The DFG memorandum 'Planetenforschung')

"They are large, 'dirty' snowballs several kilometeres in diameter consisting mainly of frozen water and carbon compounds, mixed with dust."

Two or three comets a year are diverted from their distant trajectories by stars they pass and pass through the centre of our own solar system instead. Scientists conclude from their trajectories that they do in fact form part of the solar system and must have come into existence at the same time as the planets.

They thus hope to learn more, from the precise chemical make-up of the comets, "about conditions at the time when the planetary system was in the process of formation.

"The dust should be the same as that which occurs in interstellar space and determines the energy household of the Milky Way and the formation of suns and stars from interstellar gas."

Unlike planets and their moons, comets are reckoned to have come about in such placid circumstances that the original matter of the solar system can hardly have changed.

It remains to be seen, however, how many asteroids turn out to have been ersthile comets from which unstable components such as ice have evaporated. "Hard-boiled comets" the authors of the memorandum neatly call them.

Life is by no means a privilege limited to our own planet, research scientists are firmly convinced. Life may well have developed on other planets.

Extra-terrestrial life forms may differ in composition and chemical components from our own, but the search for life beyond our own planet remains the most important item on the space biologist's agenda.

The Viking Mars probe represented the first attempt to locate life on a neighbouring planet. Bacteria have been kept alive for several weeks in a simulated Martian atmosphere (this, incidentally, is an example of the laboratory experiments previously mentioned that can prove as valuable in scientific research as the costliest space mission).

To survive, however, the bacteria relied on the availability of water in liquid form. Veritable floods of molten water are reckoned to have swept the surface of Mars in ages past, so life may once have existed there but no longer does so.

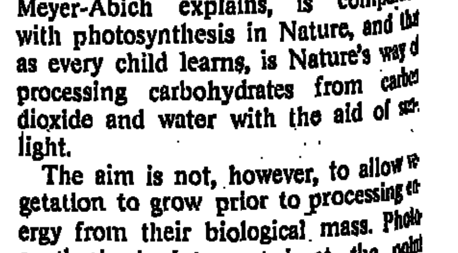
Jupiter, Venus and *Titan, a moon* of Saturn, are the most likely heavenly bodies in our cosmic vicinity to bear primitive forms of life.

The authors of the memorandum anticipate that conditions on Jupiter and Titan will be similar to those on Earth several thousand million years ago. "A space probe to these two stars could, at some stage in the future," they surmise, "shed light on our own past."

Gerhard Taube

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 12 June 1977)

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG): Denkschrift Planetenforschung **(German Research Association (DFG): Memorandum on Planetary Research), Harald Boldt Verlag, Boppard, 126 pp. illus., 20 deutsche marks.**



Scientists hope to win hydrogen from solar energy

Scientists in this country are convinced that solar energy can be harnessed by means of photobiological or photochemical generation of hydrogen.

At an Essen congress held on the initiative of the German Research Scientists' Association experts concluded that hydrogen generated in this way could well, in the long term, meet a substantial proportion of Man's energy requirements.

Professor Klaus M. Meyer-Abisch of Essen adds, however, in an interview with *Umschau in Wissenschaft und Technik*, the Frankfurt review of science and technology, that science still has a long way to go in this particular field.

It is about as far advanced as atomic energy was, say, in the mid-thirties. In 1932 the neutron was identified as the agent of nuclear fission, but the atom was not split until 1939.

But with natural processes on which to base scientific development, photobioligical and photochemical exploitation of solar energy has already reached a more advanced stage than much-vaunted nuclear fusion, or so Professor Meyer-Abich claims.

Scientists feel that the techniques envisaged have distinct advantages over other processes that are, perhaps, better known, such as thermic and photovoltaic utilisation of solar energy.

Hydrogen is a virtually ideal fuel which could well meet most of our energy requirements. It imposes no burden on the environment and can be piped substantial distances underground. There is a distinct possibility that the present natural gas grid could be converted to hydrogen.

The photobiological process, Professor Meyer-Abich explains, is comparable with photosynthesis in Nature, and this, as every child learns, is Nature's way of processing carbohydrates from carbon dioxide and water with the aid of sunlight.

The aim is not, however, to allow vegetation to grow prior to processing energy from their biological mass. Photosynthesis is interrupted at the point where hydrogen is produced.

Another process scientists anticipate will prove an efficient way of generating hydrogen for fuel is termed photoelectrochemical — a combination of photochemistry (sunlight) and an electrochemical reaction.

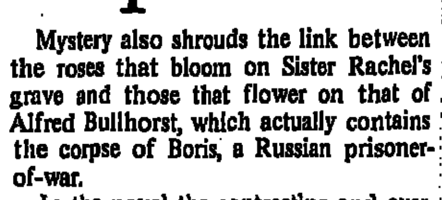
But it will be some time before either process has reached the stage at which large-scale production is feasible. Professor Meyer-Abich does not anticipate hydrogen produced in this way making any significant contribution towards energy supplies before the turn of the century.

Gisela Ostwald/dpa

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 June 1977)

■ FILMS

Not so much a portrait, more a jigsaw puzzle



The screen version of Cologne writer Heinrich Böll's *Group Portrait with Lady* has been dogged by bad luck from the outset, with a number of producers and directors vying for the film rights of what, after all, was a Nobel Prize-winning novel.

It is one of Böll's most complex novels but plans took firmer shape when two other films based on Böll novels, *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum: and Views of a Clown* (the weaker of the two, incidentally), proved box office successes.

Allegedly Romy Schneider's acceptance of the part of Leni Gruyten started the ball rolling. Heinrich Böll approved of Romy Schneider as the female lead and Romy Schneider is said to have insisted on Aleksandar Petrovic rather than a German director.

The author seemed satisfied with her choice, but Romy Schneider and director Petrovic between them stepped up production costs to a level neither the free market, if such it may be called, nor film promotion subsidies and TV rights could possibly be expected to finance.

Their place was taken by producers who were prepared to invest money in the venture for tax write-off purposes. A film that looks as thought it might have cost 600,000 deutschmarks is now claimed to have cost six million.

Scandals enough occurred during filming. Director Petrovic admitted that he was having difficulties with Romy Schneider and the five producers. He also complained that the Press in this country had treated him like dirt during filming, preferring to discuss his dispute with Romy Schneider rather than the subject matter of the film.

It is, on the other hand, easy to understand why the journalists were so peeved. Why should tax- and TV licence-payers' money be thrown out of the window?

Problems encountered while the film was in the making evidently played a large part in making the screen version incomprehensible at times, a confusing conglomerate of the *motifs* in the novel.

Aleksander Petrovic claims that he is merely following the author in interespersing various periods of time — 1939, 1941, 1945, 1965 and 1972 — but films, after all, are a law unto themselves.

The film has less time than a novel to unfold characters in a literary fashion, and it must inevitably fail in its objective if cinemagoers are unable to work out elementary details, such as who is who and who does what and why.

The entire first three quarters of an hour remains a riddle, as does Rachel Ginzburg, the figure who dominates both Leni and the action, dying as a Roman Catholic nun in 1943, with roses blooming on her grave in winter.

Mystery shrouds Leni's first love, her cousin, who deserts from the armed forces together with her brother and is shot. Mystery shrouds the role of Leni's father, Hubert Gruyten, a rich building contractor who is determined to avenge his son's death.

Mystery also shrouds the link between the roses that bloom on Sister Rachel's grave and those that flower on that of Alfred Bullhorst, which actually contains the corpse of Boris, a Russian prisoner-of-war.

In the novel the contrasting and overlapping threads of action can be checked by reading. In the screen version the cinemagoer is confronted by a jigsaw puzzle made up, admittedly, of beautifully directed pieces, but he (or she) is unable to fit the pieces together.

The viewer is only able to breathe a sigh of relief when the plot starts to deal exclusively with Leni and her love affair with Boris and with life in Nazi Germany.

Leni plunges wholeheartedly into her spontaneous love affair and tries to protect Boris from the Nazi authorities by fitting him out with a German identity, which leads to an irrevocably tragic state of affairs once the war is over as far as Boris is concerned.

This section of the film is significant and conveys, at long last, some idea of what might have been done with the novel.

Towards the end, when Leni is in love with Mehmet, a Turk, and she serves biscuits to an imaginary party, Petrovic loses the thread he has had such difficulty in gathering.



Romy Schneider as Leni and Michel Galabru as Pelzer, the cemetery gardener, in *Group Portrait with Lady* (Photo: United Artists)

As for Romy Schneider, she is impressive, but stands little chance of developing her part. She is set rigid in states of suffering, happiness, hope, despair and bravery. Subtle variations are seldom required of her.

The dialogues are not unduly subtle either, consisting mainly of edited versions of what sound like leading articles. Jürgen Kolbe, co-writer of the screenplay, has since dissociated himself from the result, whereas Heinrich Böll still approves of the finished film.

Yet, chaotic though the film may be, it remains part of a long-overdue cinematic reckoning with the German past which, as Böll makes clear, extends without hiatus into the present.

Any number of highly-rated German films in recent years have been far worse than *Group Portrait* despite the hue and cry and outrage that are now voiced.

Sad to relate, but true nonetheless, the screen version of Heinrich Böll's Nobel Prize-winning novel could have amounted to far more than a merely thought-provoking or acceptable film. But it failed to do so, and that is all there is to be said.

Eckhart Schmidt

(Deutsche Zeitung, 10 June 1977)

A moving piece of work — in more ways than one

Brigitte Toni Lerch and Benno Trautmann have spent the past year travelling the country with their film *Der Umsetzer* (The Removal Man).

It has been well received everywhere, particularly by people whose problems it reflects, longstanding residents of city-centre slum clearance areas who are suddenly faced with transplantation to dormitory suburbs.

They are uprooted from their familiar environment for the bulldozers and speculators to move in. Lerch and Trautmann have studied the phenomenon in detail and what they show is virtually entirely authentic even though it is only a film.

The removal man in West Berlin is the agent of a housing corporation which is nominally a non profit-making, charitable organisation, but his job is to induce tenants by hook or by crook to leave their old homes.) At night he sticks posters in he tenement back yards announcing that "we naturally assure tenants that the building will not be demolished until the last family have moved out."

This, of course, is not strictly true. We are shown the last old man who refuses to budge finally being evicted with the aid of tricks and the police.

As he is escorted downstairs the old man comes face to face with a camera team who are taking location shots for a film about how beneficial slum clearance programmes are.

The old man, totally exhausted as he is, is asked to say a few words — "anything will do." So he lets fly with a string of invective. Not to worry, the film-makers dub his verbiage and he ends up saying exactly the opposite of what he wholeheartedly meant.

By means of this subterfuge Benno Trautmann succeeds in introducing an aesthetic second dimension into the film, an additional level conducive to critical reflection.

In other respects *Der Umsetzer* deliberately dispenses with in-depth treatment. The film is intended to emotionalise the subject and to portray the feelings of ordinary folk affected by the removal and arouse sympathy with their hardship.

The film is not pugnacious in that it is dedicated in its commitment to social criticism or outlines alternatives. It merely tells its sad tale unadorned, angling for sympathy with the human tragedy slum clearance can occasion.

Perhaps the only point the film deliberately makes by way of comment is that the transportation of entire communities is made out to be an abstract necessity by housing corporations who are pledged to serve the public good, but in such cases are an outright menace.

Authorities, lobbies and social structures are kept out of the picture, leaving the emphasis on personalities. We are meant to sympathise with the old folk who are never allowed to explain just how they feel (and would probably be at a loss for words if the opportunity arose).

The villain of the piece is, of course, the "removal man" — yet even he is not cast as a man who particularly enjoys his job. He remains a somewhat abstract figure, seeming to decide matters, but in fact being no more than a small cog in a large machine, albeit a cog that has to bear most of the brunt.

Der Umsetzer is aimed at the public who are at the receiving end of the treatment it portrays. They are only too familiar with the details it omits and so fail to notice their absence.

Apart from a few polemically tearjerking scenes the film is surprisingly humorous considering its subject matter. And it is not the cheery humour of the Berliners, but the humour of people everywhere who manage to see the funnier side of adversity.

Humour of a more dialectical kind also occurs in scenes connected with the removal man's part in the slums clearance "film within a film." The agent is made to make promises which, as we have already seen, he is unable to keep, given the task with which he has been entrusted.

The plot does not develop in any dramatic way. From the outset it is not altogether apparent what the next step will be, although the outcome in general terms is self-evident.

It is a case of the same old story, but this feeling does not make the film any the less exciting, which is a tribute to the two young film-makers' technique of not letting their feelings run riot.

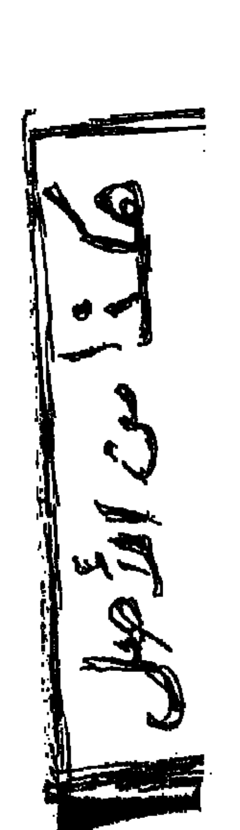
With a topic of this kind the only people who can maintain a level-headed approach are unquestionably those who, while being socially committed, have not taken sides in that they are actively engaged in the work of one group or another.

Brigitte Toni Lerch and Benno Trautmann made their film without subsidies of any kind, relying on borrowed money of which only half has so far been repaid even though their film is generally acknowledged to be worthwhile.

It is, perhaps, fitting that a film dealing with slum clearance in fact also does so figuratively, dealing telling blows at conventions of a film industry and scene that might well benefit from being scheduled for demolition.

Helmut Schmitz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 June 1977)



■ THE ARTS

Herbert Achternbusch, the 'loner' among film-makers

Deutsches Allgemeines SONNTAGSBLATT

Herbert Achternbusch was trained as a painter and sculptor, and he did not begin writing until 1969 when he was over 20. His writing career was to earn him fame.

Leading literary critics seized upon his work and admired his dervish-like imagination — one can virtually say they were shocked by his "chaotic" narrative talent. Even Heinrich Böll had some good things to say about the Bavarian ego-depicter.

Achternbusch has so far published to following books: *Die Macht des Löwengebrüll* (The Power of the Lion's Roar), *Die Alexanderschlacht* (The Alexander Battle), *L'Etat C'est Moi*, *Der Tag wird kommen* (The Day will Come) and *Die Stunde des Todes* (The Hour of Death).

These are stories telling, among other things, of a cinema-goer's experiences and of the possibilities of fleeing into screen dreams from the narrow confines of our reality — fleeing into a beautiful, orderly and just world.

His literary works eventually led him to deal with films and they provided him with his cinematic material.

Achternbusch wrote about Jerry Lewis, the Japanese Ozu, the Englishman Charlie Chaplin and the Munich comedian Karl Valentin — a movie aficionado who delved into the desperately comical screen reactions to a bleak reality.

In 1975, he began making films of his own. This resulted in *Das Andechser Gefühl* (The Andechs Feeling), followed a year later by *Die Atlantikschwimmer* (The Atlantic Swimmers) and, in 1977, by *Bierkampf* (Beer Battle).

In his latest book, *Land in Sicht* (Land in Sight) — which provided the material for two of his films, the previous book *Die Stunde de Todes* having yielded the film script for *Andechser Gefühl* and a short story which Werner Herzog turned into the film *Das Herz aus Glas* (Heart of Glass) — Achternbusch writes: "I took the trouble to find out how old Charlie Chaplin was when he made 'The Gold Rush' — he was 36 — and when Jerry Lewis made 'Hallo Page' — he was 34 — and I was already 37. It was therefore high time. I, too, had to do something which didn't exist in Germany: *Bierkampf*.

And somewhat further along in his book, the author writes: "I hate all expressed views. For me the law lies in the cradle. Long live the cinema of my dreams. Long live the rebel!"

Is Achternbusch a dreamer and a rebel — or is he only a Bavarian character and successor of the inimitable Karl Valentin, this comedian with a maniacal obsession to turn banal everyday situations into hilariously funny end-of-the-world catastrophes?

There is no contradiction there: Dreamer, lone fighter and a comedian desperately bent on reviewing the absurdities of everyday life — all this can be reconciled within the framework of Achternbusch's radical sound-orientation.

"One must risk something in one's head," is one of his demands, and he does not make it easy for his readers and viewers to recognise this risk of his.

But we would thoroughly misunderstand the film-obsessed Achternbusch if we were to measure his film-dreams by the yardstick of that which is generally recognised as law of nature.

In reading his film reviews, which always turn into stories, we realise where we have to look for his ideals and what he — a man who refuses to hold onto idols — considers exemplary: It is absolute reliance on one's imagination, the most radical possible pursuit of unconventional ideas ... reliance on pictures and images which trigger fear of death, paralysing longing and senseless activities, thus bringing about reality.

Achternbusch's films are unadulterated reaction to his reality and are no more absurd, contradictory, pathetic and banal than that which is happening around us all the time.

In *Das Andechser Gefühl* he tells — and, as in his other films, plays the lead role — of a village school teacher plagued by examination fears and family troubles who drinks himself into a beer stupor in order to keep alive his dream that the great and beautiful film diva will come to liberate him from his dingy world.

This dream of deliverance does not end happily — although the diva appears — because such deliverances from everyday life cannot be tolerated: A bloodthirsty settling of accounts with a kitchen knife takes place — a chaotic and yet absolutely clear story.

In *Die Atlantikschwimmer*, the difficult decision of two friends who are tired of life, Herbert and Heinz, whether they want to be shot dead upriver of downriver develops into a wild chase for the big happiness, taking them all the way to Teneriffa — a big happiness which those achieve who have swum across the Atlantic.

The theme of this film is "you have no chance, but use it." The two friends demonstrate what this means.

They transform themselves into small children and eventually into their own mothers, taking the ordeal of a long and hard training upon themselves in order to be rewarded on the other side of the Atlantic — in the unreachable distance — for a pointless achievement: a perfectly logical story in which the lie of our day-to-day life is taken to the extreme.

"You have no chance, but use it" — this could also be taken as the theme of *Bierkampf*, his latest movie.

In it, Achternbusch demonstrates how a man tries to escape his dull, everyday life in the family fold, how he pinches a policeman's uniform — the uniform which lends him dignity — and how, with it, he tries to play a role that will earn him recognition.

He betakes himself to the infernal October Festival; and, before this backdrop of regimented gaiety, he tests the effect of his uniform. In all the commotion he loses control over that which he is and that which he is pretending to be: he becomes a policeman ... but drunk and enraged as he is, he cannot forgive himself for that mistake and shoots himself.

Bierkampf is without doubt Achternbusch's wildest, most tender and most beautiful film — not least because this loner among the film-makers has meanwhile learned his metier, gathered experience on how to make films with the bit of money he has at his disposal (and for which he has to beg) and mastered the art of making professional films with lay actors.

Granted, this film has a great deal to do with Bavaria and the compost on which Bavaria's powerful beer myth grows with the radicalism of monomania.

In fact Achternbusch is a radical anarchist in his reaction to his environment and to himself — just as Valentin was an anarchist. But anyone who brushes him aside as a "Valentinesque" nut and lone wolf will harm himself rather than Herbert Achternbusch.

Herbert Achternbusch (Photo: Barbara Gass)

It is not his love of the crazy and way-out which drives him into his cinematic antics, but joy in taking risks and placing himself at the mercy of reality, having burned his bridges.

There is no contradiction in the fact that all three films tell of attempts to escape, of the sadly beautiful flight into cinema dreams, into other worlds and into a masquerade aimed at providing Man with a raison d'etre.

And thus, just as Achternbusch, "the nutty individualist" (in his films), pursues his dreams all the way to their deadly and destructive end, reviewing reality, his films demonstrate to the viewer how unimaginative and atrophied our existence is: a liberating and enlightening as well as a pleasant adventure.

But those who want to take part in this adventure "must risk something in their heads."

The fact that Herbert Achternbusch has now been awarded the Petrarca Prize for the promotion of poetry is perfectly in keeping with the "logic" of his dreams: for, up to now, he has only written a few scattered poems, incorporating them in his novels and short stories. And yet Herbert Achternbusch deserves a prize — even this one.

Thomas Thieringer

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 12 June 1977)

Love and early death the theme of Karin Struck's latest novel

Karin Struck's second novel, *Die Mutter* (The Mother) ends with the sentence: "Not to be born is the greatest happiness."

This thought recurs in her latest book entitled *lieben* (To Love) — but there it does not stem from her, but from brothers Kleobis and Biton whom the gods rewarded by granting them an early death. For an early death is second only to not being born at all.

Lotte, the female Chimaera behind whom Karin Struck hides in her new book, also dies an early death.

She toys with the idea of death in the very first pages, holding on to it throughout the book: "Suicide as an end would be the law of my life." But Lotte survives the novel, and so the reader had to wind his way tediously through the endless 450 pages — an insufferable task at times.

While in *Die Mutter* Karin-Nora still stood for an idea, namely the emancipation of women as the transcendance from womanhood to motherhood, Karin-Lotte represents but one attitude: Lotte, the seeker of sense, the seeker of the senses and of sensuality.



Karin Struck (Photo: Digne Meller Marcovicz)

Like Karin Struck, this Lotte is a woman in "her 30th year" and, like Karin Struck, she has two children and is separated from her husband, Johannes (Karin Struck is divorced).

Let us not pursue the parallels any further. In the latest novel, the heroine is a midwife — perhaps a hangup from *Die Mutter*?

She is in love with the writer Jochen who needs her only as a sop to his manhood ... the monkey on his back. Lotte thus finds herself between two men — and this is the only thing she has in common with her namesake in Goethe's "Sorrows of Young Werther".

When Jochen makes her pregnant she is already so estranged from him that she has an abortion. Now she experiences the proximity of love and death, which keep her captive in the pietistic tortures of experiencing herself.

Disappointed by men, she meets "Sonja or happiness" as the chapter heading puts it. From her she learns that "the penis is not the navel of the

Continued on page 15

■ EDUCATION

Special German courses for foreign executives



The corridor leads past classrooms, a language lab and the secretariat, ending at a leisure room. The young people meeting there between lectures whisper to each other in foreign languages.

Some have come from Texas in order to participate in a "basic course for beginners", taking place from mid-May to mid-June. Others have come from Finland to attend the four-week "special language course for economics".

All this takes place in the Language College for Executives which recently saw its official opening in Cologne although, to all intents and purposes, it has been operating since early April.

The organiser of the "College" is the Carl Duisberg Society (cdg for short) which "plans, develops and organises supplementary education courses for executives and specialists from developing and industrialised countries and provides training places for young Germans abroad."

This terse formulation in the prospectus describes a task which a spokesman for the Society compares with the work of the state organisation for the exchange of students and young researchers. Says the spokesman: "We are a non-university academic exchange service."

This comparison elucidates two things: that the College is an important counterpart in the sector of professional training to academic exchanges and that this is due solely to the initiative and financial contributions of private promoters — primarily business.

Cdg, says the prospectus, "is based in its work on the commitment of its members and promoters — above all German business."

Incidentally, the initials "cdg" have proved anything but a success since they are inevitably associated with the city of Duisburg rather than the chemist and co-founder of Bayer-Leverkusen, Carl Duisberg.

As a result, his name is not known to non-chemists and every prospectus is faced with the task of explaining after whom the Society was named.

Duisberg (1861 to 1935) initiated after World War I an on-the-job training service for students through which 500 young Germans were enabled to do a two-year on-the-job training stint in the United States while studying at university.

This action was based on the conviction which is still the determining factor in the work of cdg, which was founded in 1949, that a stay abroad and learning in a foreign country provides an important and irreplaceable experience.

The prospectus explains to whom cdg addresses itself. For one thing, it is young Germans who are to be provided with a possibility of gaining professional experience and qualifications abroad and, for another, foreigners from industrialised countries — and latterly the increasingly important group of young executives from the developing nations — who are to be provided with German experience.

The administrative and organisational setup have been developed in such a manner as to do justice to each of these groups.

The new institute in Cologne, located near the Society's head office, specialises in executives from the industrialised nations.

Its programme was booked out from the very beginning. The bookings are arranged either through existing contacts or they are organised by fixed arrangements with three American universities.

The fees — between DM790 per four-week course — are paid by the individual participants. Cdg provides no scholarships, although scholarships can in some instances be granted by German government agencies, which is frequently practised in the case of applicants from developing nations.

Demand not only bears out the need for such courses, but also bears witness to their success.

Teachers at the Cologne language college list several reasons for the success of their work. For one thing, the students are usually "motivated", they have graduated in their respective professions before coming to Germany and are thus in a position to absorb an intensive course along the lines of the Cologne college.

And, for another, they consider living in foreign surroundings stimulating. The students are hosted by German families, thus having not only close contact with the German language, but also with way of life in this country.

But the focal point is the course itself. This consists of language training which is more than mere grammar and vocabulary.

Students are also taught how to handle the language and "communicative attitudes". This includes communication in an office, in a given professional situation, during negotiations and — most important — on the telephone.

This objective is served by a curriculum designed by the language teachers of cdg's six language centres, which they dubbed "German Dialogue".

The courses are no longer divided into lectures, but in learning units concentrating on specific problems such as "Employer — Employee", "Wages — Prices", "Monetary Affairs — Banks" and "Traffic Problems — City Planning".

Practical tuition as well as lessons

Language exercises are supplemented by practical tuition. The subject "Monetary Affairs — Banks" is amplified at a bank; the relationship between employer and employee is demonstrated through visits to trade unions and employers' associations.

The final result is more than mere language lessons and provides practical insights into the market mechanism and economic structures of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Textbooks in keeping with such objectives have to be specially developed. It requires considerable financial outlay and specialised experience to do so.

"German Dialogue" is the result of practical teaching experience and perpetual tests. The first part — including texts, casettes, folios and *transparencies* for several "*specialised terminologies*" — was completed in time for this spring's courses at the Cologne college.

Professional training and supplementary education in all its forms is making up for lost time. Courses of this nature prove that non-university educational institutions warrant recognition.

The intention to eventually extend these courses to non-executives shows that these are models of auxiliary training aimed at a broadening of vocational and professional qualifications.

It would be good if it were not only the Ministry for Cooperation and Development and our foreign cultural policy which recognise the value of such institutions, but also our medium-sized business. For up to now only major companies have shown interest in the work of the Carl Duisberg Society.

Klaus-U. Ebmeyer

(Deutsche Zeitung, 10 June 1977)



A class at the Carl-Duisberg language college in Cologne

(Photo: Carl-Duisberg-Gesellschaft)

■ HEALTH

Doctors describe how they treat the whole family as a patient

Frankfurter Rundschau

Of the countless events of the 26th Congress for Further Education in Medicine which took place in Berlin — with its 25,000 participants still the largest medical congress in the Federal Republic of Germany — there was one event which drew the audience like a magnet.

Its subject was "Illness and Family". Hundreds of mostly younger physicians and members of other therapeutic professions crowded into the lecture hall which was filled to the last bit of standing room. What is at the root of this attraction?

As Professor Horst-Eberhard Richter of the Giessen Centre for Psychosomatic Medicine put it, this is not so much due to a renaissance of the family, as to the growing insecurity concerning the role of man and woman in family and society so far as the patient is concerned and — so far as the physician is concerned — the growing realisation that most conflicts and many ailments have their roots in disturbed relations between couples and the family as a whole.

As a result it is easier to remedy such disturbances by treating all concerned.

According to Professor Richter, his Centre has for the past seven years successfully treated married and unmarried as well as homosexual couples who believed that they could no longer get along with each other. The therapy involved two weeks of intensive psychoanalytical sessions.

Professor Richter pointed out that two weeks sufficed to make patients see their partners in a new light and to create conditions that would enable them to work jointly and severally towards resolving their tensions.

He stressed that what mattered was not so much to teach the couples how to converse with each other again without hurting each other's feelings, but that the objective of the therapy was primarily to uncover the roots of their conflicts.

The significant aspect of such disturbed relations is after all the fact that each of the partners tries to keep the other in check psychologically in order not to expose himself to blows that could harm his self-esteem.

Professor Eckhardt Sperling of the Department for Psycho- and Sociotherapy of Göttingen University described the step from couple to multi-generation treatment. According to him, disturbed family life is frequently due to internal family mechanisms, preferential and non-preferential treatment, exaggerated expectations and obligations that are hard to fulfil.

Professor Sperling illustrated this by pointing out that every family had its black sheep — say an uncle — and a shining idol as for instance in the form of a particularly revered or successful great-grandfather. From earliest youth children are told to emulate the idol or to avoid the fate of the black sheep.

These and similar roles are assigned to individual family members, thus leading to break-ups and tensions within the family which culminate in an attitude which Professor Sperling described as follows: "I'd rather swim across the ocean than visit my father and get into another fight."

The therapy which should, whenever possible, include aunts and grandparents since they are most familiar with the family history, aims at finding out what happened in the family earlier and what the true story is concerning the black sheep or the idol.

As opposed to psychoanalysis, which attempts to bring suppressed facts back to the conscious mind, this type of therapy tries to bring distorted family histories back into focus, thus effecting a reconciliation.

While at the beginning of the therapy the members of the family level accusations at each other, at the end of it they usually have to take leave of their illusions, says Professor Sperling.

A typical example is the recurring statement: "We never knew that!" The consequence of such new realisations is usually a redistribution of family burdens, as for instance by helping and supporting the weakest member.

Professor Helm Stierling of the Department for Basic Psychoanalytical Research and Family Therapy of the Heidelberg Clinic also views the redistribution of burdens within a family as the most effective way of treating psychosomatic ailments resulting from disturbed family relations.

According to Professor Stierling, all psychosomatic illness have a physical and a psychological component which affect each other. A significant aspect of the psychosomatic patient is the fact that his physical control mechanisms which should provide an equilibrium and harmonise emotional tensions are out of order, thus making the patient ill.

Unfortunately, says Professor Richter, the further development of family and multi-generation therapy is still hampered by Medical Association policy and, above all, by the provisions of the National Health Insurance system.

He pointed out that especially general practioners have shown themselves to be particularly open-minded where family counselling and therapy are concerned.

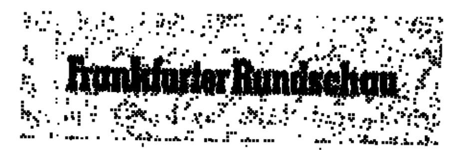
But as long as the Health Insurance system refuses to pay the medical fees it is unlikely that a considerable number of doctors will employ such costly and time-consuming therapy methods in addition to their general practice.

Dieter Dietrich

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 June 1977)

■ OUR WORLD

Life's hard for widowed fathers trying to cope alone



Saturday is the day on which Wilhelm Riemer, 55, hopes against hope. Towards lunchtime the weekend edition of the local paper, with its bumper crop of small ads, is delivered.

Son Henning Riemer, 10, is sent out to play while his widower father pores over the lonely hearts page. The Riemer family has been without a wife and mother for over a year now, and Wilhelm Riemer badly needs someone "to take the place of Henning's mother and my wife."

Which is easier said than done, since Wilhelm Riemer is not prepared to take all comers. By accepted standards he has done well in life. He served his apprenticeship and learnt a trade, later becoming a commercial traveller. He is now the regional sales manager in a city in the north of the Federal Republic.

Wilhelm Riemer (not his real name, of course, but he and his son genuinely exist) does not want a wife with children of her own, although he owns the freehold of a roomy apartment which could easily accommodate a larger family.

He does not want a second wife who is too emancipated either. She must share his somewhat conservative views. Above all, she must not go out to work all day. "I can offer her a quiet and comfortable life on the strength of my own income," Riemer says.

But a good income would seem no longer to be a sufficient inducement nowadays. *Wilhelm Riemer is not, at his* age, on the lookout for a brief affair. He spends his Sundays writing to likely prospects who have advertised in Saturday's paper.

If the advert includes a telephone number he is always ready to invest in a phone call. He is also on the books of a marriage bureau, which supplies twenty addresses for a fee of 450 deutschmarks, he says.

Agencies make good money out of people's need for companionship, Wilhelm Riemer claims. He should know. The first agency wrote offering its services six weeks after his first wife died.

After the first meeting with a prospective new wife and mother, always assuming this stage is reached, both father and son review the pros and cons. To date they have invariably come to the conclusion that "she" (whoever it is) "is not what we are looking for."

One would-be Frau Riemer No. 2 was a well-to-do businesswoman who was not prepared to reduce her own style of life or make concessions in respect of individual freedom.

Then there was a woman who worked for the local authority, but seemed to have spent her entire life in difficulties of one kind or another. "We have troubles enough of our own," the Riemers decided.

Then there was a sports teacher, a unruly woman "who seemed to expect me to be Prince Charming," Wilhelm Riemer says.

"Basically," he explain, "I am a little too old for the boy." He married at 33, his wife was twenty-six. Henning was born twelve years later. Because his parents felt they were too old to start a large family they decided that Henning would be an only child. "That," says Wilhelm Riemer, "now turns out to have been a definite mistake."

In 1974 Erika Riemer was ill. Cancer was diagnosed. After the operation she spent six weeks in hospital before being allowed to return home.

At the end of 1975 pains recurred, but the doctors said it was gall bladder trouble and treated her accordingly. On Tuesday after Easter last year she went back to hospital for another operation.

Her husband was told the truth by telephone. "The doctor said she now had cancer of the liver and that the disease had reached such an advanced stage that there was virtually no hope of a cure."

She had only seven weeks left to live. The doctors and her husband had agreed to tell her that she was suffering from the aftermath of a stomach infection that had given her trouble during a holiday in Italy the year before.

On Whit Saturday, the day before she died, Erika Riemer voiced suspicions that she might be suffering from cancer. A few hours later she went back into hospital. At 6.30 p.m. on Whit Sunday the hospital rang to say that she had passed away.

Wilhelm Riemer does not want sympathy. For the past year he has tried to cope on his own. There are no near relations to lend a hand.

On the death of his mother, who worked and paid insurance contributions for eighteen years, Henning qualified for a pension of 200.70 deutschmarks a month as a semi-orphan. He will remain a "pensioner" until the age of eighteen at least, but that is no substitute for a mother for a boy of ten.

He is a shy and badly needs someone he can look on as a mother. Classmates at school find it much easier than he does to make friends. He can only invite other children home provided they do not make a mess. Wilhelm Riemer keeps the home spotlessly clean, but this has its drawbacks as far as his son is concerned.

For eight deutschmarks a say Henning goes out to lunch, but when he comes home from school in the afternoon he is left to his own devices.

Wilhelm Riemer always writes a note his son can read when he comes home from school. The notebook in which father and son write notes to each other is touching, to say the least.

Dieter and Renate Fuchs, another couple death parted unexpectedly, planned their future in detail before putting up the banns early in 1973.

Dieter Fuchs was a captain in the merchant navy, but decided, for the family's sake, to become a landlubber and learn a new trade. He and his wife looked forward to having three or four children.

He went to work for the local authority and in 1975 his wife gave birth to a daughter, Katja. A year later she was looking forward to a brother or sister to Katja, but this was not to be. She died of cancer at the age of 27 in September last year.

Dieter Fuchs was forced by his wife's illness to rearrange his entire life and make do with reduced circumstances. In a way he had been through it all before ten years ago, oddly enough.

He was angaged to be married and intended to give up his career in the merchant navy on his return from the Far East. In mid-Pacific he learnt by radio that his financée had suddenly died. He was not even in a position to attend the funeral.

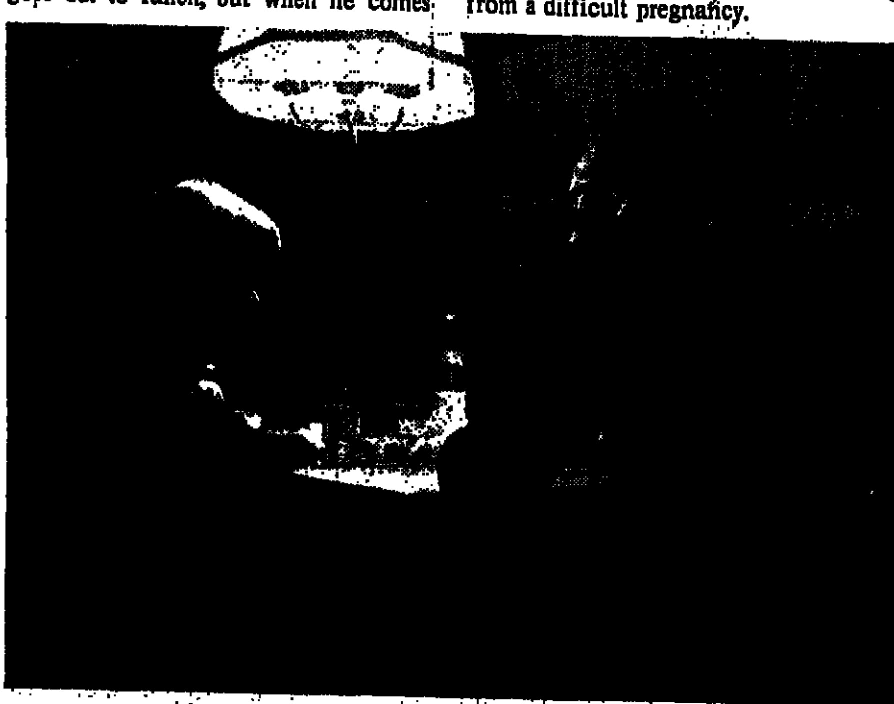
"I resolved at the time to retire from the navy if ever I thought in terms of marriage again. That," Dieter Fuchs says, "was not going to happen to me again.

"I shall never understand why it had to be that I was proved right so soon," he adds.

In the early stages of her second pregnancy Renate Fuchs put on weight abnormally. Just hormones, the doctors ruled, since everything was all-right gynaecologically.

Then — she was four months pregnant — the doctors decided an operation was nececcary. But it was unsuccessful. She lived only another two and a half weeks.

Dieter Fuchs had arranged with the doctors and friends and relations to tell his wife that she was merely suffering from a difficult pregnaficy.



Wilhelm Riemer and his son Henning having a meal

(Photo: Albrecht Schreiber)

With the doctors he had also arranged for his wife's life not to be prolonged unnecessarily. He was by her side when she died. He now knows from personal experience that death can come as a relief.

As soon as his wife's illness started Dieter Fuchs was resolved to keep Katja, their baby daughter, whatever happened. Friends made enquiries on his behalf as to ways and means of looking after her while he was at work.

They soon hit on an idea that has proved the ideal solution as far as Dieter Fuchs is concerned. On the initiative of a group of parents a crêche had been opened nearby that is open all day.

Three kindergarten teachers look after a dozen infants, one of whom is Katja. But parents are expected to take an active part in the running of the crêche. There is a general meeting once a fortnight, during which period a member of each family has to do the cleaning one evening.

Once a month each family is expected to do the cooking for the children and their minders. Single-parent Dieter cheerfully pulls his weight.

But single-parenthood demands sacrifices. Careerwise Dieter Fuchs is out on a limb. The local authority has agreed temporarily to allow him to work a six-hour day, but his taken-home pay is down 25 per cent as a result.

This is not too much of a problem for the time being. Dieter still has savings from his merchant navy days and Katja too is paid a monthly allowance.

But the long-term prospects are grim. Dieter Fuchs cannot hope to attend courses, go to evening classes and qualify for a better job and promotion. He has, to all intents and purposes, reached a dead end.

"Fresh problems are already in the offing," Fuchs adds. "Next year Katja is three and will have to leave the kindergarten."

So his plan is to link up with an extended family type commune so that he can be sure someone will be around to look after his daughter while he is out at work. "And so I can regain a measure of independence for myself," he adds.

Who would begrudge him that? He has taken on a heavy burden in deciding to look after his little daughter singlehandedly.

Every time he goes with Katja to the doctor's surgery or even feels like a walk round the block he has to make some arrangement or other with the neighbours. He has not the slightest hope of nipping round to the "local" for a glass of beer.

As a widower he particularly notices the way in which the number of people he knows and meets regularly has shrunk to a bare minimum.

He still has his close friends, but ties with a wider circle of acquaintances are not what they once were. He is seldom invited out, and when he rings other people up to ask them to call round they usually sound embarrassed and apologetic.

Yet Dieter Fuchs, like Wilhelm Riemer, does not want sympathy. He does not consider the changes his life has undergone since his wife died to have been a sacrifice. As he sees it they are merely the logical outcome of his decision to bring up Katja on his own rather than send her to a children's home.

The wife Herbert Schmahl is looking for "will have to bring a number of qualifications with her if she is to pass muster." First and foremost, she must have a driving licence.

Then she will need to be a good organ-

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■ SPORT

27 countries at the Kiel Regatta



Twenty-seven countries were represented by 1,023 yachts and crews at this year's Kiel Regatta. Entries included not only the six Olympic craft, but also another ten categories.

So there were any number of prizes to compete for, but interest at the ninety-fifth Kiel Regatta centred on two events, the ocean-going races and the Star class, which stages its comeback as an Olympic discipline in 1980.

In the wake of the North Sea qualifying races off Heligoland the Baltic races off Kiel go towards deciding which three yachts will represent the Federal Republic in the Admiral 's Cup.

Regatta week is not all sailing, of course. It is a major social event, with President Scheel and Chancellor Schmidt in attendance, not to mention Bundestag Speaker Karl Carstens, several Bonn Cabinet Ministers and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

Five hundred delegates attended the annual gathering of the Standing Conference of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which was a major feature of the social calendar.

Then there were exhibitions, concerts, guest performances by leading theatre companies and, last but by no means least, the customary encounter of visiting naval units.

Eleven countries were represented by 4,500 men in uniform, but despite the social whirl the emphasis was, as ever, on the sailing. This country's most successful yachtsman, Lufthansa captain Willi Kuhweide, did not enter in the Soling class this time. His aim as skipper of the ocean-going *Saudade* is to ensure nomination to represent the Federal Republic of Germany in the Admiral's Cup. But the yachts that seemed to be making the running were *Champagne* from Lübeck, *Duva* from Kiel, *Rubin* from Hamburg and *Pinta* from Leverkusen. The outcome remains to be seen, however.

There was no mistaking the Star's comeback. A number of well-known yachtsmen have switched craft to try their luck with the next Olympic regatta in mind, and between them they made the Star races the most keenly watched at Kiel.

They included Uwe Mares of Kiel, Valentin Mankin of the Soviet Union and Uli Libor of Hamburg, all of whom are past Olympic medallists.

These three led a field of 47 Star-class yachts, but the category for which the largest number of craft were entered was the 470, with 98 yachts from sixteen countries in the running.

Karlheinz Vogel

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 June 1977)



Tornadoes at the starting line

(Photo: Wilfried Witters)

Continued from page 14

ganiser, be prepared to help out with the business, to be a good mother to two boys aged ten and twelve and "to have a little time to spare for me," adds Herbert Schmahl.

Schmahl, 45, claims to be a straightforward man. He and his children live in a converted farmhouse, but may soon be moving to a new bungalow. Looking after them will certainly prove a full-time job.

But he may make his new wife a partner in the family firm. Herbert Schmahl runs a haulage firm. Gisela, his first wife, was a partner, but she died in February after thirteen years of marriage. Lung cancer was the cause of death. She was thirty-five.

Herbert Schmahl started the firm on the proceeds of a lottery win. It was not a great deal of money, but he is a hard worker and not the kind of man to be put out of his stride by the ups and downs of life.

Gisela Schmahl was in hospital for three and a half months. Two days after she left home her husband had worked out a housekeeping timetable.

"I am extremely grateful to my drivers," he says. "From time to time they have brought their wives with them to clean up thoroughly."

Had it not been for his wife, Herbert Schmahl readily admits, he would never have been able to build up the firm as fast as he did. A new wife is going to have to lend a hand with the firm too. "It is our livelihood, when all is said and done," he points out.

He has advertised in the local paper, for both a wife and a housekeeper. There have been thirty replies so far. He has also paid a marriage bureau 700 deutschmarks for its services.

He sent the first housekeeper packing after 25 days, the second after five. At present he is trying out No. 3, a forty-year-old woman with two children of her own.

"We get on quite well," he says. "Above all, the children are happy." As for the business arrangement, that remains to be seen. They have agreed on a three-month trial period.

Death is not the most popular of subjects. As a rule interest and commiseration are short-lived. And widowed fathers are at a particular disadvantage in that they tend to be disregarded by both the powers that be and the general public.

Their most pressing problem is that there is nowhere they can apply for advice and assistance in coping with the family singlehandedly. No one volunteers the information that the children may be entitled to an orphan's allowance, for instance.

The widowers whose tales are here related came across the possibility more or less by coincidence.

Problems are no less pressing at work. Half-day jobs for single-parent fathers are few and far between and invariably the result of an arrangement with an understanding employer. There is no legal recourse by which provision might be made.

Younger widowers also feel the lack of cooperation in a humane and trustful manner on the part of the authorities. Their particular worry is that unless they show themselves to be masters of their predicament some faceless bureaucrat or other will simply consign their children to a home.

Albrecht Schreiber

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 18 June 1977)

Love and death

Continued from page 11

world." Of course, nor are women alone the navel of the world. Lotte turns once more to the other sex, and henceforth she feels like "a wanderer between the two sexes."

She knows neither men nor women, only people. Says she: "I am a true drinker of people."

There follows a sequence of casual encounters with youngsters, one of whom she calls "Darling George", and a 19-year old by the name of Christian. But: "Even in her 30th year she knew not who she was."

Only the love for a down-and-out character, a 19-year-old alchoholic and drug addict for whom the world is a heavy burden to bear as is his significant name 'Lenz' (poetic for spring ed.) gives Lotte a new lease of life. He shares her longing for death and with him she can build "housing against death."

In a closing scene, in which the authoress draws all the stops of sensibility and symbolism, Lotte and Lenz make love in a hospital morturay. Their union for the last time welds together the two themes of the book... but love triumphs over death.

Karin Struck's way of writing is pretty well known to the reading public. But whatever one might say about the authoress, no one can say that she knows how to tell a story.

What could be distilled as a plot is overlaid by the endless proliferation of uncontrolled thoughts, reflections and associations.

The characters would have provided a narrative, but they are shoved aside in order to make room for more reflection on the part of the authoress, who reverts time and again from the third person singular of Lotte to the first person.

In her quest for sense and sensuality she tests what others think and have thought, palpating our linguistic usage, ploughing whole fields of words and falling prey to psalm-like recitations.

There is a borderline at which linguistic mania turns into speechlessness and gibberish. This borderline is crossed time and again in this book. Wherever the authoress manages to get hold of a thought she attaches to it a rattling verbal tincan, and this rattling fills the pages.

Because she is so uncertain of everything, Karin-Lotte seeks a hold in sentences that convey solid certainties, such as: Love is; death is; life means.

But frequently these theorems are empty formulas. They provide not so much an insight into what they are supposed to express as into the person who expresses it. Confessions of a beautiful, poor soul.

In the reader who manages to wade through the book they arouse anger and pity. Admittedly, neither anger nor pity are literary categories. But literary categories are the least suitable yardsticks for this tiresome book.

Michael Bengel

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 18 June 1977)